

SOCCER

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WEEKLY

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GST INCLUSIVE

FOR THE NON-BELIEVERS

By Mark Stavroulakis



As always, ABSW have been updating every event that has happened so far with the possible Leeds United – Olympic Sharks merger and alas, a new piece of information has made it's way to our offices last week.

A document (first shown in the Greek Herald on 16-8-02) signed by 49% President George Pashalis as shown on the page indicates the 'reality' the Sharks face on September 1st at the Sydney Olympic Sporting Club.

ABSW has received many letters and phone calls calling this merger a hoax or a myth, but upon receiving the document (included below), the whole agenda is explained as to what is currently unfolding at the club.

Pashalis, a former legal advisor for Soccer Australia, a lawyer by trade and also having been involved with Olympic for well over 20-years has set out the guidelines for the extraordinary meeting which will decide the fate of this historic club.

As mentioned in previous ABSW editions, if the 49% fail to accept the terms of giving their share to English side Leeds United, then its goodbye Olympic Sharks.

Many people have mocked the idea that the Sharks would be in the NSW Premier League if the club does not agree with the deal.

What is evident in this document is the title 'STATE LEAGUE', and clearly states "In the event that the members cannot demonstrate a capability to retain NSL status then the team would return to the State League Competition in New South Wales".

The current owners of the club, headlined by Chairman Nick Politis, have already stated that their 51% share of the club will be sold to Leeds.

However, the prominent English club wants total control and with this scenario currently given, it's up to the 49% to decide whether to go for or against it.

Temper and high tension will be evident during September 1st, which will see at least 800 Life Members present at the club.

On the team itself, the Sharks led by coach Gary Phillips have been busily training at Wentworth Park going through the pre-season motions with players gearing up for a hopeful National League season.

ABSW will again be at the forefront in providing our readers the best information possible on this huge issue that could put one of the most historic clubs present in the National League into possible extinction, or it could herald a new beginning for the Sydney-based team?

Only time will tell.



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7th August, 2002

Dear Member,

As you may be aware from various press reports the majority owners of the Olympic Sharks football team have for some time been in negotiation with Leeds United Football Club of England for the sale of the team.

The Chairman, Mr. Nick Politis has informed your Board that Leeds wish to purchase the entire team and not merely the 51% of the majority owners.

There are three questions for the members to decide at the meeting.

Question 1.

Do the members wish to sell their 49% interest at any price?

Question 2.

If the answer to question 1 is yes the members must decide what is a reasonable sum for our 49% share given that the consideration being offered is \$2,400,000.00 (49% represents \$1,176,000.00). In negotiations with the majority owners and having taken into account various factors all parties have agreed upon a sale price for our 49% interest of \$800,000.00.

Question 3.

If the members decide not to sell then the following must be decided.

N.S.L. STATUS

The majority owners have made it clear that if the sale to Leeds United does not proceed they will cease to fund the team, will payout all the player contracts and return the team to the members.

For the members to retain the team in the N.S.L. we will in the first instance have to pay to Soccer Australia the sum of \$250,000 transfer of ownership fee and demonstrate to the satisfaction of Soccer Australia that we have the ability to fund the team.

STATE LEAGUE

In the event that the members cannot demonstrate a capability to retain N.S.L. status then the team would return to the State League Competition in New South Wales. The cost of operating a competitive team in the Premier Competition in the State League I am advised is in the vicinity of \$350-\$400,000 per season.

BOARD'S POSITION

The Board's preferred position is that the 49% shareholding not be sold and that we remain a partner with Leeds United on the same terms as we currently have with the majority owners. We are advised that this is not possible.

The Board is of the view that we the members will not be able to satisfy Soccer Australia of our ability to fund the team in the N.S.L.

The decision the members must make is whether the team retains N.S.L. membership but the members will no longer 'own' part of the team or keep total control and return to play in the State League.

Members should note that if they decide to sell to Leeds United the name and colours of the team will NOT be changed as this is an integral part of the agreement for sale. In addition the privileges of Life Members will not be affected.

In the event that Leeds United do not wish to continue funding the team the agreement will provide that our current partnership between the majority owners and ourselves will have the right to have the team returned to us together with the sum of \$300,000.00.

At that time the partnership will have to decide whether to continue funding the team in the N.S.L.

I urge all members to attend this most important meeting to decide our future or if unable to attend to complete the attached proxy form.

Yours faithfully,

George Pashalis
Hon. President.



George Pashalis

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Youth Coach Steve Darby talks
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AUSSIES ABROAD

BY DANIEL KUZIOU

Leeds have taken Adelaide City
defender Iain Fyfe on trial.

Leeds have had their eye on the
20-year-old for some time and
he'll spend two weeks at Elland
Road before returning to Adelaide
on September 2, unless manager
Terry Venables wants to sign him
on the spot.

Last season the former
Australia Under-17 international
won the Advertiser Golden Boot
award as the best player at
Adelaide City.



**Iain Fyfe: Could another
Aussie be heading to
Elland Road?**

Adelaide chairman Bob
D'Ottavi is waiting to see how
interested Leeds are before decid-
ing on a fee which could be any-
where between 100,000
Australian dollars (£35,000) and
200,000 dollars which he admits
is modest by European standards
but very useful to a club like
Adelaide.

But as part of any deal
Adelaide will insist on a sell-on
clause which would net the club a
hefty profit if Fyfe were ever sold
to another European club.

"If we did a deal we would cer-
tainly want a percentage of a
future transfer, but it is too soon to
talk about that. At the moment
Iain is only going to England for
two weeks," he told
sportinglife.com

Following Fyfe is Brisbane
Strikers defender Jon McKain
who has been offered trials at
Clayton Zane's Anderlecht.

The 20-year-old featured in
almost every Strikers match under
coach John Kosmina last year will
link up with the Belgian giants for
a couple of weeks.

McKain will be looking
towards a hopeful contract with
the Belgian side as the promising
defender has stated that an over-
seas move has been a dream of his
for years. Crystal Palace defender
Tony Popovic equalised with 11

minutes remaining to deny
Bradford victory at Selhurst Park.

Popovic's goal came only four
minutes after substitute Andy Tod
had put the Bantams ahead when
he rose to head home Danny
Butterfield's centre.

★★★★

Aussies Shaun Murphy and
Hayden Foxe were given full



**Tony Popovic: Scored the Crystal Palace equaliser
against Bradford.**

games for Sheffield United and
Portsmouth respectively as the
sides battled out a 1 all draw.

Both goals were scored in the
first 25 minutes of the game, yet
with 15 minutes left Murphy had
the chance to score a late winner
but was inches wide with a 15-
yard header direct from sub John-
Paul McGovern's corner.

★★★★

1860 Munich were defeated 2-
nil by Hansa Rostock in the
first round of the new Bundesliga
season.

The match could not be played
at the weekend due to the
European Athletics Champion-
ships being staged in the
Olympiastadion and it was not a
happy debut for the Munich based
side.

Aussie striker Paul Agostino
could only manage a single effort
on goal but flashed a header wide
11 minutes from the end that sig-
nalled the end of the 1860 fight.

★★★★

Steve Corica was the only
Aussie to feature in the
Walsall side that lost 3-1 to
Division 1 heavyweights
Wolverhampton.

Corica featured for the entire
90 minutes at Molineux, while
David Zdrilic was sidelined with
a calf-injury.

News earlier in the week had
suggested that Zdrilic would be
returning to action. But the
Socceroo could not force his way
into Colin Lee's side.

★★★★

Ivan Ergic played 60 minutes for
Swiss side Basle in their
Champions League qualifier
against Scottish champions Celtic.

Ergic was busy in midfield and
the former Perth Glory played a
large role in the visiting side's
competitive display. Christian
Gimenez stunned the home crowd
into silence with a goal for Basle

"We have worked hard with
him but he has worked hard — it
takes two, and he has been very
good to coach.

"He is a good listener, he tries
to put into practice what you are
asking him to do, and things are
starting to pay off for him."

★★★★

Working manager Geoff
Chapple has confirmed that
midfielder Jon Brady has signed
for the Cards in time to be consid-
ered for the opening Nationwide
Conference game against Forest
Green Rovers.

Rumours that the Australian-
born Brady would be signing for
Chester City started earlier when
it was discovered that he played in
a pre-season friendly for them
against Liverpool on Tuesday.

Brady said: "I promised Mark
Wright some weeks ago that I
would be making an appearance for
them at some point in the game.
My intention was to sign for
Woking from the start, this is
where I want to play my football."

Chapple said: "I'm delighted
and I hope the fans will be as well,
I have to admit I was worried
when I heard he had played for
Chester. However, I have spoken
to him and he has signed in time
for Saturday's game."

Brady, formally with Rushden
& Diamonds and Hayes, has
agreed a one-year deal at
Kingfield.

★★★★

Australian wing back Scott
Bullock is currently on trial
with Motherwell.

The Scottish-born E.C.U.
Joondalup star has already failed
to earn contracts at Preston and
Charlton, but is now hoping to
have more luck north of the bor-
der.

"I'm back in my country of
birth, Scotland, and can't wait to
start trials with the club I have
always supported," said Bullock
on planetfootball.com.

"I am confident going in to this
as I have learnt a lot in England
and believe I'm a better player for
the experience I've gained."

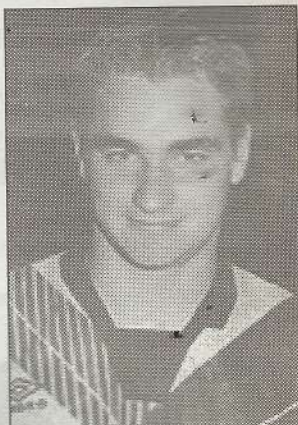
★★★★

Planetfootball.com have stated
that Preston North End have
offered a trial to Australian ace
Josh Kamasz, who is currently
with Manchester City.

The 16-year-old Freemantle
City striker has caught the atten-
tion of a number of English clubs
and now Preston have joined the
chase.

City have been looking at the
player for the past week and have
yet to decide whether to hand him
a contract, but North End are now
hoping he will try his luck with
them.

Charlton and Bolton have also
been keeping tabs on the young-
ster in recent months.



**Josh Kamasz: Currently
trialling at Preston
North End.**

★★★★

Sport.scotsman.com report that
Stuart Lovell is set to return
for Scottish Premier League side
Livingstone.

The former Hibs ace missed
last week's defeat at Dunfermline
and the midweek UEFA Cup tie
against FC Vaduz with a knee
injury but resumed training and
will travel to Firhill as part of the
squad to face Partick Thistle.

Boss Jim Leishman said
"That's good news because Stuart
is our captain and is a big influ-
ence. I feel we've missed him a
bit over the past couple of games
and it will be nice to have him
back."



**Stuart Lovell: Returning to
the Livingstone squad
following an injury layoff.**

★★★★

Wollongong Wolves young-
ster Greg Sharland has
completed a move to English side
Charlton Athletic.

The 19-year-old has been at
The Valley for nearly a month and
impressed enough to gain a perma-
nent contact with The
Premiership outfit.

Sharland who has previously
been on trial at Preston has now
penned a permanent deal with
Charlton.

The Addicks have been looking
to increase their links with
Australia and youth coach Mick
Browne made a trip down under
earlier this year where he spotted
Sharland.

"I saw him and recommended
we take a closer look at him,"
Browne revealed to planetfoot-
ball.com.

"He has done well and has
joined us on a permanent basis.

"He is likely to play for the
reserves this season and we will
see what he does from there."

Sharland joins fellow Aussie
youngster Fred Wilson at The
Valley, who joined the club last
season.

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APPLICATIONS CLOSE FRIDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER 2002

Soccer Australia Chairman praises Blatter comments in Asia

Soccer Australia Chairman Ian Knop reiterated last week that the Oceania Football Confederation is a step closer to direct qualification for the 2006 FIFA World Cup, following Mr. Joseph Blatter's recent comments from Asia.

FIFA President Mr. Blatter confirmed his continuing support for Oceania to receive a direct qualification path for the World Cup, referring to our member Confederation status and automatic participation at other FIFA international events.

"They (Oceania) are a fully recognized Confederation and it's the only Confederation that has no access to one of the competitions. They have automatic access to all other (FIFA) competitions, why shouldn't they have access to the World Cup?" said Mr. Blatter, courtesy of the Associated Press in Kuala Lumpur.

SA Chairman Ian Knop was delighted that Mr. Blatter had expressed this view whilst attending the Asian Football Confederation's annual congress, further strengthening Oceania's claim in the lead-up to the decision in December.

"It was extremely pleasing to hear our friend Sepp Blatter repeat his conviction that Oceania deserve automatic qualification to all future FIFA World Cup's, especially that he is now in Asia," Mr. Knop said.

Whilst Mr. Blatter was in Sydney, he was very determined to see this important issue for Oceania through to its conclusion with the vote in Zurich in December, and today's comments by the President reinforce that."

We have a genuine friend for Australia and our region in the FIFA President, and for the continued development of the game in Oceania and with Australia set to play a leading role, Oceania will be helped tremendously with a positive announcement in December," concluded Mr. Knop.



Ian Knop has praised FIFA President Sepp Blatter's views on Asia.

'BOSS' ENTERS FIJI?

By Mark Stavroulakis

Les Scheinflug or also known as 'Boss' looks set to sign a 2-year deal with Pacific Island country Fiji.

The former Socceroo has coached 14 Australian national selections from junior to senior level to the Soccer World Cup, including three full national sides at the Olympics.



Les Scheinflug could hold a new role in Fiji?

His last job as an Australian coach was the U17 Joeys that took part in the '99 World Cup held in New Zealand.

This was to be Australia's finest hour at international level as Schienflug's side finished runners up to Brazil losing out in penalties.

If Scheinflug decides to put pen to paper on this deal, it will see the former Socceroo take over Fiji's Olympic and Youth sides.

NSW CHIEF CALLS ON KNOP TO RESIGN

By Daniel Kuzlow

New South Wales Soccer Federation president Tom Doumanis has called on Ian Knop to resign as chairman of Soccer Australia for failing to fulfil his role as the game's leading official.

The remarks come in the wake of Knop's decision to commit Soccer Australia to an independent review commission-a move that Doumanis sees as unnecessary.

"He should resign immediately and the board should follow so that we can start afresh," Doumanis was quoted as saying in The Australian newspaper.

"He has had 12 months in the job but failed to deliver the goods and has all but admitted as much by helping to instigate this inquiry.

"To my mind, that is an admission of failure."

"Where do we go now? Quite clearly his Plan B option has failed miserably. Do we go to Plan C?"

But Knop shrugged off the criticism from Doumanis and Victoria State Federation chairman Manny Galanos, who had expressed concern over fears the state federations will be weakened by any change.

"Mr Doumanis and Mr Galanos can make any comments they want but at the end of the day, they are just two states," Knop was quoted as saying in the Herald Sun newspaper on Friday.

"The full board of Soccer Australia unanimously supported the inquiry and unanimously voted to implement the recommendations."

"Lots of people don't like change, but this is not some



NSWSF chairman Tom Doumanis has called on Ian Knop to resign as Soccer Australia Chairman.

secret chamber and they will get their chance to make their own submissions to the inquiry."

"I've been chairman since August last year and all I know is I inherited a mess," Knop said last week at the launch of the inquiry.



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McBreen Off To Romania

By Mark Stavroulakis

Newcastle United striker Daniel McBreen's visit to Romanian First Division club Universitatea Craiova has proved a success after the club offered the 25-year-old a professional contract.

It was reported that McBreen had a really good trial period with the club, who will now leave the hard working city of Newcastle bound for Europe in his quest to play European football.

It was no secret last season that McBreen was out of favour with coach Ian Crook's squad, who had Joel Griffiths and Alex Moreira as their main targets up front.

The Romanian First Division is a

stranger to many Australian players moving abroad and from recent statistics suggest that McBreen will be the only Australian present in playing the Romanian competition.

Meanwhile Newcastle star striker Joel Griffiths is expected to return from his trials in Sweden with Hammarby after failing to win a contract with the club.

Also returning from overseas trials is new United recruit Adam Griffiths, who flew to France and trialled with FC Metz.

The French club reported that they would be monitoring Adam's progress as the youngster also hopes to be amongst the many Australians playing abroad.



Daniel McBreen: Former Newcastle United striker has won a contract with Romanian First Division side Universitatea Craiova.

ADELAIDE FORCE SIGN EX-PARMA DEFENDER

By Mark Stavroulakis

First it was the re-signing of Force striker Claudio Pelosi, then defender Gianluca Lagati, now a third Italian has been named in the Force squad for the coming season - ex-Parma defender Diego Pellegrini.

It was reported that the 31-year-old joined Charlie Villani's side last week, as the squad prepares itself for a huge National League season.

Known to play as a centre-half, Pellegrini spent a season at Parma, then went on to play for Ancona the following year. Perugia snapped up Diego in season

as a main player in this season's National League.

"I have heard Australia is a fantastic place and the football is of good level. Claudio and Gianluca have told me a lot about Adelaide and my family is looking forward to living here", Pellegrini told The Advertiser last week.

The Force have boasted their changes in making the top six this season with the inclusions of Mike Valkanis returning from Greece, Goran Lozanovski, Shane Smeltz and goalkeeper Ian Martin.



98/99 before ending up at Serie C2 side Savoia.

Diego is looking forward to his Australian experience and hopes to cement himself

CHINA AT IT AGAIN

Australia's rivals when it comes to hosting major sporting events-China could be at it again with reports that they are planning to bid for the 2014 World Cup.

The news comes after FIFA announced that the World Cup will be rotated among confederations from 2010, with Asia a strong possibility to host another tournament come 2014.

Beijing Youth Daily quoted Zhang Jilong, vice chairman of the China Football Association, as saying: "If they decide to hold the World Cup in Asia that year, China will of course take part in the bidding."

China will play host to the women's World Championships in 2003 and the Asian Cup in 2004,



before the Olympics in 2008.

Zhang added: "So why can't we host the World Cup?"

"China is already prepared to organise this great soccer competition," Zhang was quoted as saying at the annual congress of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC).

However, Zhang's optimism could be thwarted with FIFA president Sepp Blatter having said that Asia would more than likely have to wait beyond 2014.

The Beijing Youth Daily reported that apart from China and Australia, Malaysia, Singapore and several Gulf states would be willing to bid for the 2014 tournament although there chances are slim at best.

BURNS AIMS TO PLAY HIS PART

Leeds United midfielder Jacob Burns is looking to throw off his 'forgotten man' tag and fight for a place in the Leeds team under Terry Venables.

The 24-year-old has only made eight appearances since his move to the club in October 2000 from Australian side Parramatta Power, as he found his path barred to the first team by a lengthy knee injury and the strength of competition for places in the Leeds squad.

Burns though is determined that this season will be different for him, hoping to play his part as a squad member in United's success this season. Having played a large part in pre-season Burns believes he's been able to put his best foot forward in front of new boss Terry Venables.

"Terry has given all the boys a fair amount of time to show him what they're capable of," said Burns, "he's had a good look and hopefully he can feel now that he can use me during the season."

"It's the same with all the guys here because we've got a really good squad of players, but personally I only hope that I get some time in the team."



Jacob Burns: Fighting for a first team spot this season.

"Last season I had injuries and a knee operation so it was difficult, so this year I'm hoping to stay fit and try and cement a place in midfield."

"It's difficult with the talent we have in the team, and to come back from a knee injury didn't help me last year either, but I've had a good pre-season and hope to shake things up this year."

The highlight for Burns this pre-season has been the United trip to his native Australia, which was good for him and helped build Leeds ties with their fans Down Under.

"It would have been nice to have been a lot longer, but it was a good tour and we won all our games which was the main thing."

"We've got so many Aussies here now at Leeds and it was good for all the fans back home to get a chance to see us and the other players," added Jacob.

**Article courtesy of the Leeds United website*

National Soccer League club the Football Kingz have continued their recruitment drive with the signing of Chilean international Patricio Almendra.

The 25-year-old has been in training with the New Zealanders for the past two weeks and did enough to earn himself a one-year deal.

Almendra was confirmed last Wednesday as the club's major signing by Kingz chief executive Chris Turner.

After a disappointing season in 2001/02, new Kingz coach Ken Dugdale has a



Levent Osman has signed for Finnish club Tampere United this season.

new look squad with more than ten New Zealand internationals or youth internationals already signed or trialling.

Meanwhile Former Kingz defender Levent Osman has secured a short-term deal with Finnish champions Tampere United.

The former Australian U23 international was released by the Football Kingz at the end of last season, but now with a short-term deal with an overseas club, Osman looks set to resurrect his footballing career.

OKON SECURES LEEDS MOVE

By Daniel Kuziow

Socceroos captain Paul Okon has returned from the domestic club wilderness to sign a three-year deal with English Premier League side Leeds United.

The move comes after a restless few months when Okon was shown the door by Steve McClaren at Middlesbrough, then had to contend with roving in the midfield for Gianluca Vialli's Watford side.

His Elland Road move will see Okon renew his association with Leeds boss Terry Venables, who he played under him when he was in charge of the Socceroos, and then at Middlesbrough.

The 30 year-olds deal has been secured and Okon intends to repay the faith shown in him by Venables.

He told the official Leeds United website: "Joining a club of Leeds' stature and having the chance to work

under Terry Venables again made it an easy choice for me."



Paul Okon: Another Aussie now on Leeds United's books.

"I was with Australia and Middlesbrough when Terry was there. I think a lot of players who had played under him would love to have the chance to do it again."

"It is a thrill also, for me to be linking up here with

all the Australians Leeds have. That will make it a little easier for me to settle in."

"I am looking forward to playing a part in bringing success to Leeds United."

"I am a bit behind the other lads in terms of fitness because I have missed out on some pre-season training and I will be working hard to get to full fitness."

"Because of the number of matches to be played I think there is room for everyone. Most of the teams who are looking to win trophies have big squads and hopefully, when called upon, I can do my best and play my part."

Okon is now the seventh Australian born player on the books at Yorkshire and joins fellow Socceroos Mark Viduka, Harry Kewell and Jacob Burns. Danny Milosevic, Shane Cansdell-Sherrif and Jamie McMaster are the other three with McMaster having represented England at schoolboy level.

MAISANO BROTHER'S SETTLED AT MORTON

By Richard Kreider in Scotland

It might just be the Scottish third division to some, but to John Maisano, Greenock Morton FC is the perfect platform to catapult his footballing career. And together with his older brother Marco, they couldn't be any happier at the Cappielow Park club.

"Although I'm in the Scottish third division, it's not as easy as people might think," said John. "Maybe I have got the potential to play in the Premier League, but I wouldn't be playing regularly straight away." John's move to Scotland, with the assistance of his Agent Lou Sticca, was apparently a hairline decision, since he was very close to signing for the reigning NSL Premiers.

footballing shop window, you can't go past Europe," said Maisano. "A couple of good games and the sky's the limit. I had a pretty good season for Marconi (Stallions) but that didn't guarantee me anything.



John Maisano

I had still had to come overseas and start from the bottom, namely the lower division of Scotland," he said. Now that he is at the Greenock club, John has settled in fast and looking ahead to their campaign of returning to the second division and maybe even higher.

"The boys are great, they are making me feel well at home," said Maisano. "The lads are very optimistic they can bounce back. We have got a good bunch of players, where three-quarters of them have experienced Premier League football. Once the team gets into a rhythm, there is no team in our division that can compete with us."

John is also getting on well with their manager and former Carlton SC coach Dave McPherson.

"He (McPherson) has put a lot of faith in me. Dave has given me a lot of responsibility as well as a lot of freedom on the park where I can play my own game."

And as for a long-term relationship with the club? "It depends on how I feel and how I am treated and what ambition the club has," said Maisano.

"Obviously, it's early days and I'm just worrying about my own job and to play at the best of my ability," he said.

Meanwhile, brother Marco is also enjoying his time at the 'Ton, although things weren't so rosy when he signed late last season.

"I arrived at a difficult time; the team was going through a rough patch, changing gaffer's and a lot of bad publicity," he said.

"But we have started this season in fantastic form and now I'm playing with my brother in the side. It's really good."

Both brothers agree the pace of the game is the main difference from what they were used to downunder.

"The game is a lot faster," said Marco. "You can't pull out of tackles and have to make sure someone is on the end of a split-second pass."

Although Marco has three years left on his contract, he has high aspirations like most players; but has no desire to leave just yet. "My short-term goal is to see Morton become league champions. After that, I'd like to play at the highest level possible."

Marco believes he owes their manager a great deal of gratitude, in terms of playing opportunities at the club. "I respect Dave very highly. One day I will look back and say that he has been the biggest influence in my career. His man-management skills, especially with myself and John are second to none."



Marco Maisano

"I was very, very close going to Perth Glory but Greenock put in an offer I couldn't really refuse. But it is not only the money, it is the opportunities it provides," said the former U-21 International midfielder.

"If anyone was going to play for a club in Australia Perth Glory is the best club in the country. But in terms of a

Postecoglou Pleased With Festival Success

By Mark Stavroulakis

Success was the word used around Hindmarsh Stadium after the Festival Cup came to despairing end two weeks ago.

After a week of high class action, Scottish giants Glasgow Rangers reigned supreme after defeating our Australs side four-three on penalties.

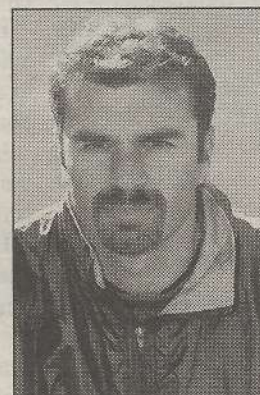
Australs coach Ange Postecoglou was however happy with his side's performance after reaching the final of the Festival Cup, but believed it was a great opportunity to have seen players strut their stuff at international level.

"It was unfortunate that we lost to Rangers in the end, however I thought it was a great tournament overall. It was pleasing to see so many quality sides pitted against one another and know it was a good experience for the Australian boys.

The standard was played at a high level with many quality players shown through out the tournament. I was happy with our overall performance, I thought we played some great football but the main advantage of this Cup was I got the chance to use players that I am cur-

rently looking at for the new U20 and U17's National sides. I thought in the final against the Rangers we could have done better, but I guess that's football".

The tournament did unearth some quality stars but in the Australs department, a few names shone out from the strong 20-member squad - One in particular



Australs coach Ange Postecoglou was pleased with his sides showing at the recent Festival Cup held in Adelaide.

was Marconi Stallions star Alex Brosque who gained the accolade of man of the series.

"Alex played some good football, he did really well but there were many other players that did just as good. Matty McKay and Massimo

Murdocca were also great, but the team overall played well. Other players such as keeper Tom Willis and defender Daniel Pirokowski, who are players I have yet to see were also on top of their games".

The Festival Cup did generate a lot of media hype and hopes are pinned that the tournament will be staged yet again - coach Postecoglou hopes this will be an annual event.

"I know that at the conclusion of the Cup the organizers were talking about the tournament next season so all is well. I hope we do get the ball rolling for another Cup as it is brilliant for Australian football and it certainly boasts the name of the game in this country".

Now with the Festival Cup well over, Postecoglou will be traveling to Germany this Friday to organize a camp alongside Socceroo coach Frank Farina, for a European based Olyroo squad.

"Myself and Frank are leaving on Friday for Germany to hold a camp for potential Olyroo players. It will run for around eight days and in that space of time, two matches will be played. Twenty players will make the trip from their respective European clubs to



Alex Brosque was outstanding for the Australs at the recent Festival Cup being awarded as the 'man of the series'.

Germany for the camp, which will make our jobs as coaches, easier to monitor future players for the Olyroo squad. It is an option which we will be using in the near future for various other training camps for National Teams".

The staging of a possible Socceroo camp in Europe is also on the cards but nothing permanent has been set yet.

The Olympic's Hit Sydney's West

Last year's NSL champions, the Olympic Sharks will head out west to take on Liverpool Olympic in the lead-up to the defence of their title.

The match is scheduled to be played on the 1st of September at Hoxton Park Reserve at 3pm. Further to festivities will be a free sausage sizzle and a plaque and associated presentations will be made at 1:30pm.



Furthermore, the Sharks players will be available for talks after the fixture.

This initiative is in keeping with the clubs traditions, which fields some 35 teams and has a culture of providing a safe haven for children, where they make friends and the club is active in unifying the community.

Liverpool Olympic has also implemented a youth

program this year in order to attract more youth to take up an active role in sports.

This match is a great way for people in the Liverpool area to support their local team and identify with the premier club team in Australia, the Olympic Sharks.

An excellent initiative and the match will be a showcase of talents and role models, which are important in a child's development.



www.olympicsharks.com

The Olympic Sharks (NSL Champions) Are Coming To Liverpool



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Against
The Best Of Liverpool & Fairfield Districts
(Southern Districts)
Liverpool Olympic Celebrates The Opening Of There New Sporting Facility At
Hoxton Park Reserve

DATE: 1st September 2002
VENUE: Hoxton Park Reserve
ADDRESS: Cnr Hoxton Park Rd and Wilson Rd, Hoxton Park
TIME: 12:30pm Under 19's Olympic Sharks Kickoff
2:30pm Under 6's Liverpool Olympic Kickoff
3:00pm First Grade Olympic Sharks (NSL)

Official Opening Of Facility By Mr George Paciullo (Mayor OAM)

* Free Admission * Meet The Players
* Free Sausage Sizzle * Shirt Signings

"Fun Day"
Sponsored By

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AUSTRALIA

The Victorian Chronicles



By Brendon Davis

Knights Axe Players

Most of last year's first team has been axed by the Melbourne Knights. Despite already having one of the lowest playing budgets in the NSL the club has slashed its playing budget in a further effort to match their playing budget with their income.

With a playing budget estimated to be less than \$500,000 new signings will prove complex for the Sunshine based club.

Those axed include both of last seasons strikers in Toto Da Costa and Joel Porter. Porter continues seeking a European contract while he is believed



Joel Porter: Melbourne Knights star won't be returning to Sommers Street as the striker is currently in trials overseas.

to have a choice of South Melbourne or Perth Glory as NSL clubs if he's unsuccessful in Europe.

Vice Captain Alex Kiratzoglou is another player to have been axed. He is certain to attract considerable interest from other NSL teams.

Ivo De Jesus is once again without a club while high profile signing from last season, Kresimir Marusic was also given his marching orders.

As ABSW revealed last week Sash Ogenovski has signed with a Greek first division club while Andy Vargas has not had his contract renewed.

Likewise Joey Rajher and keeper Darren McGrath were also informed they will not be offered contracts.

Coach Andrew Marth told ABSW "we don't have much money but we have some exciting players trialling". "There are several (Victorian) Premier League players that will step up.



Toto Da Costa: Has left the Knights hoping for a contract overseas.

Only four of last seasons first squad remain at Sommers Street; Marth, Rody Vargas, defender Steve Horvat, and goalkeeper Martin John. Anton Kovacic, who missed last season with an injury will be a welcome return.

Daniel Vasilevski is also out of contract but the Knights expect him to resign over the next few days.

Several of last seasons lesser lights will enjoy an opportunity to step up including Daniel Piorkowski for whom the Knights have high hopes include Daniel Debevc, Jezza Sulemani and Anthony Pelikan.

South Sensational In Friendly

In awkward conditions at Port Melbourne South displayed some terrific form in the first half of their friendly against the Victorian VPL Team.

South had their first team on the park for the first half.

While the Victorians started well, with a marvellous goal with Port Melbourne's Cameron Pino convert-



Fausto De Amicis (right) played a solid game in South's two-one win over Port Melbourne in a friendly match last week.

ing a dream goal from over 25 yards, which found Dean Anastasiadis wanting. Despite this, the Victorians were never going to worry South.

In the middle Panopoulos and Greek trialist Didakis were had plenty of the ball and seemingly plenty of time to "play" with it.

Deputy Vice Captain and Soccerro Fausto De Amicis shed his marker before crossing to Michael Baird who showed his class scoring an easy goal. Baird, who is still on trial put in another

quality performance so should expect a contract offer from fellow Queenslander, Danny Wright.

Ironically it was Souths number two keeper, Eugene Galekovic keeping goals for the State team. It was a quality performance from Galekovic that denied South several further goals.

Baird continued to impress in a best on ground performance.

He caught Galekovic off guard with a nice chip to double the score, much to the delight of the large number of South fans at Port Melbourne.

It was 2-1 to South at the break but the scoreboard failed to reflect the NSL teams dominance.

Didakis, who struggled, was substituted with Souths youngsters Massimo Murocca, Steve Pace and Vince Lia all having ample ground time. A number of other very young faces also received ground time under the watchful eyes of Wright, Tsolakis and co.

Veteran Dave Clarkson showed some promise with a wonderful ball to Baird which went fractionally left of the upright.

And yet again Peter Buljan showed considerable promise; he is likely to figure highly in Danny Wrights planning for the season.

Baird was best on ground with De Amicis and Buljan impressing considerably. And Eugene Galakovic showed he is quite capable with an impressive performance for the Victorian team. Steve Iosifidis was also most impressive.

Knights Sign Buhic

Some exciting news from Sunshine is another experienced signing.



He is Leon Buhic, a striker from Croatia of Bosnian Croatian origin. Former Knights championship coach Mirko Bazic recommended him.

At 29, Buhic has played in Croatia with Sibenik, in Germany's second division after several years in Bosnia.

Training continues 5 nights a week in preparation for Sundays big "friendly" against cross-town rivals, South Melbourne.

The game kicks off at 3pm at Sommers Street, with a friendly between the South and Knights supporters preceding the main match, at 1pm.

Admission is free.

Victorian Signs With Blackpool

FORMER South Melbourne and Auckland Kingz keeper Michael Theoklitos, has signed a contract with English team Blackpool following his trials.



Michael Theoklitos has signed for English club Blackpool.

Another former South player, Simon Colosimo who had an unsuccessful period with English Nationwide Division One team Manchester City has signed with Belgian first division club Antwerp.

No doubt this move will provide Colosimo with the opportunity to re-establish his career in Europe.

Kisnorbo Trials Again

South Melbourne and Australian defender Patrick Kisnorbo is back in Europe on trial - for the third time in twelve months.

This time he is in Switzerland where he is said to be trialling impressively and expecting a contract.



Patrick Kisnorbo is currently in Europe on trials with a Swiss club.

ABSW will update readers on his progress.

Knights Confirm China

Another exciting Asian experience awaits the Melbourne Knights.

If any of the squad were looking forward to a relaxing week with the round three bye they should think again.

Rather than enjoy a quiet week the team will travel to soccer mad China for two matches against local teams.

And supporters wanting to share the excitement and join the team on the tour of China should call Robert Hrzic

at the club for details of the supporters package.

South Kit Sponsor

Covo were today announced as being the new kit sponsors at South Melbourne.

Senior Vice President Nick Maikousis told ABSW "South are delighted with the new relationship with Covo".

"It's a terrific opportunity particularly given its accompanied by an attractive merchandising agreement" Maikousis told ABSW.

A merchandising program is now being developed by the club to maximise the leverage off the Covo sponsorship.

Quality Players At Bob Jane Stadium

Not only is Steve Panopolous likely to resign with South this week but several of the quality crop of trialists are likely to receive contract offers.

"We are being swamped with quality players wanting to play for us" a senior official told ABSW.



Steve Panopoulos is happy to see so many players wanting to play for South Melbourne this season.

"It's the opposite to most seasons where we are chasing player after player. And most are already capable of playing in the NSL" said the source.

South officials were silent on the likelihood of their signing any of the former Knights players released this week.

Next Week

I'll be in England to see Birmingham City's first two matches in the Premiership after 17 years out.

The Blues under coach Steve Bruce have been active in the transfer market since earning promotion securing Aliou Cisse (Montpellier for £4.5m); Clinton Morrison (Crystal Palace for £4.25m); Kenny Cunningham (Wimbledon for £3.5m); Robbie Savage (Leicester for £2.5m); Paul Devlin (Sheffield United for £200,000) and yesterday they signed American Jovan Kirovski on a Bosman free.

I'll report on the big one from Highbury where Birmingham take on reigning champions Arsenal in the season opener.

Joe Schirripa – “A Country Kid causing Shock-waves at Newcastle”



Schirripa shown here in his Newcastle colours last season in the National League.

By Mark Stavroulakis

Born and raised in the hardworking town of Griffith, 19-year-old midfielder Joe Schirripa is living his life long dream – being a footballer. Having spent a solid first season with Newcastle United last year, Schirripa made the switch from the dizzy heights of Sydney to be a part of Ian Crook's squad last season.

“It was tough at first during my years at the Spirit, Sydney was a pretty big city. On a football sense it was also hard, Spirit

didn't give me my chances, as I wanted to play first team football. The transition from Sydney to Newcastle has been great though. The people here are brilliant, I guess the main reason the switch from the Spirit to Newcastle has been good was due to Coach Ian Crook. I had originally played under him at Spirit's Youth squad. ‘Crookie’ then made the move to Newcastle and brought a few youngsters with him. I was happy to be a part of the few that made the move as I had a brilliant season last year and was delighted to have been given the chances I missed at the Spirit”.

Newcastle United did achieve amazing results last season as the side finished third and just missed out on a finals place in Perth.

Young Schirripa was one of the many players that played an instrumental role in Newcastle's success. Having played 23 matches and scoring a monumental goal against the Glory all but capped a fine year for the young star.

“Last season was great, I was really pleased with the way I played. The squad was fairly new so we had to adjust to the new faces however it all worked well in the end. The fans also did their bit in giving us support to go that extra step.

I always looked forward to playing at home, as we always seem to average 10-11 thousand people. We were undefeated last year, so home ground advantage was a big factor in our strong performances. I had no complaints with how the year went, I know I'll always remember it. Scoring my

first National League against the Glory at Newcastle will surely live with me forever”.

The New National League season is just under a month away and tough pre-season preparations have all kick-started at Newcastle. Prior to pre-season training, Schirripa enjoyed his off-season break after a hard year by spending time with the family at his farm in Griffith.

“Most players spent time going out, relaxing at the beach, I was busy doing some farm work with the tractor! It was good being back at home, being an eight-hour trip from Newcastle is always tough but whenever I get the chance to see my family, I always take up the offer. Pre-season has just started for us and it's been pretty tough. We've had a few new sign-

ings but nothing drastic. The team is 90% the same as last season, its good that everybody knows each other now, this is a different scenario than last year as we were a fairly new squad. Personally, I've been going through the motions of becoming much quicker and faster. My position as left flanker involves a lot of running and being fit so I guess I have concentrated on that aspect for the New Year”.

It was no secret that the appointment of Coach Ian Crook did spark a huge revival at the Newcastle club. Known for being a tough defender during his time in the English Premier League a few years back, ‘Crookie’ has gained the status as being ‘one of the guys’ at the club, which Joey

believes, is really good to have.

“Ian's a great coach, I know through my career so far he's helped me out a lot. He is the main reason I am at Newcastle, and he was the one that gave me my chance at the National League.

Part of our success has been due to the fact that the boys play for ‘Crookie’. Not only is he our coach, but a friend as well, he's one of the guys. Assistant Coach Gary Van Egmond is also a great person currently at the club – the two make a good combination”.

Like many youngsters, playing abroad is something many of them aim for in their future years as a footballer. Schirripa however is content in establishing himself as a National League player before moving anywhere else.

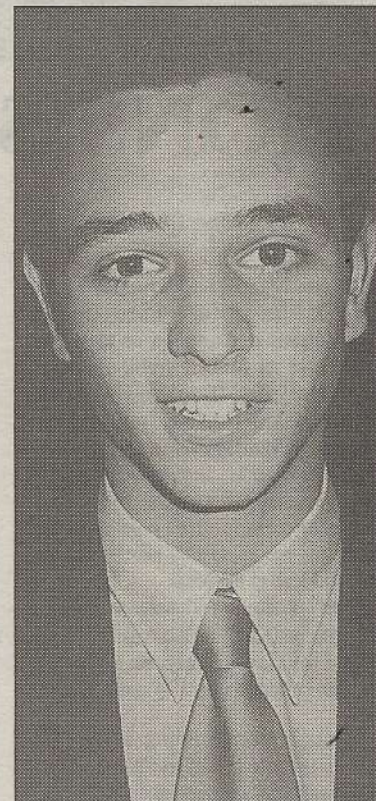
“I'm really happy in Australia, I know that it would be great playing overseas but I take every day as it comes. I don't worry about that too much, I want to play well for Newcastle, and if an offer comes then that would be great, if not, I won't be too worried.

I really want to win a National League title with the club so at this stage that would be my main priority”.

A huge accolade that the 19-year-old midfielder received last season was taking out the Under 21 Player of the Year Award (Papasavas Medal). Schirripa was pitted against Olympic Sharks Jade North and South Melbourne's exciting star Massimo Murdocca, however the Newcastle star came up trumps gaining the majority of the votes.

“I was really surprised when I got the call of being one of three players selected for the award. I worked well through the

year and it was nice to have been rewarded with such an award. I don't really focus on winning awards such as these, as I concentrate more on playing good for the club. Even though I won the award I'm the same bloke, I don't let anything get to my head”.



All smiles as the Griffith born star accepts the Under 21 Player of the Year Award last year.



By Daniela Raco

END-OF-SEASON HIGH-JINKS

What did our NSL players do over the holidays? I asked the Who's Who of Australian soccer. Most, funnily enough, spent their time in rehab!!!



Aurelio Vidmar

Went to visit family in Middleton on the south-coast of South Australia, busy training, and spending time with my wife Sarah and daughter Gabriella.



Pablo Cardozo

Went on an overseas holiday and had the time of my life.



Buddy Farah

Had a knee operation and was doing some rehabilitation, went to Melbourne to visit Archie Thompson, and went fishing at Sanctuary Cove.



Matthew Kemp

Visited family in Canberra, and busy training.



Vilson Knezevic

Went to England for trials and Croatia for a friends wedding.



Chad Gibson

Shopping in Melbourne.



Lou Acevski

Was busy planning my wedding and enjoying my honeymoon in Tahiti.



Joe Didulica

Went to Port Douglas for some sun, and Melbourne to visit family.



Ivan Zelic

Broke my foot in February, out till next month, just been busy launching a clothing label – street wear, and doing rehabilitation for the foot.



Angelo Costanzo

Visited family in Adelaide and got stuck into pre-season training.



John Hutchinson

Went to Lou Acevski's wedding, went on an end-of-season trip to Queensland, and visited family in Morwell (land of opportunity!).



Zeljko Susa

Went to “Disneyland” for some rehabilitation on the knee.



Christian Care

Played golf, and bought a racehorse.



Steve Panopoulos

Went to Brazil for a holiday.





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Premier League Review By Glenn Davis

LIONS SMACK MT. GRAVATT FOR SEVEN!

By Glenn Davis

Queensland Lions wrapped up the Brisbane premier league championship and are now on target for a repeat of its historic treble of eleven years ago after thrashing relegation threatened Mt. Gravatt 7-nil at Lions Stadium on Sunday evening.

Lions ensured Mt. Gravatt would need to win its remaining two matches to be a hope of avoiding the drop after a superb first half which saw the home side take an unbeatable 3-nil lead at the break.

After Reece Tollenare, Andrew Davidson and Greg Di Losa netted in the opening half, Lions didn't take the foot off the pedal banging home four goals after the break.

Tollenare finished the match with a hat-trick while Cody Lovell and Warren Moon also scored after the interval.

Lions took out the treble of the champi-

onship, grand final and Queensland Cup in 1991 under former coach John Sime.

Current coach Miron Bleiberg was in charge of Queensland's strongest club when they won the premiership-grand final double in 1996 and was at the helm when Lions won the 1998 grand final.

Lions, who have ambitions to play in the national league, beat first division club Mitchelton last week to earn Queensland Cup final showdown with Gold Coast.

Bleiberg rates this year's side a much stronger outfit than when he was in charge for Lions' premiership-grand final double six years ago.

"Results speak for themselves. This is a better side than 1996 but I've got a different approach to coaching this time.

"I had two years off before I started coaching this side and I've changed my coaching style my playing attacking football.

"We're a free flowing side now and we've been on top of the ladder from the

start and are unbeaten with 18 wins and two draws."

The relegation battle further intensified with Rochdale Rovers moving out of the



Reece Tollenare: Scored a hat-trick in the Lions' hammering of Mt Gravatt.

danger zone for the first time in months with a 3-1 win over The Gap.

Rochdale's victory put it one point ahead of Easts who slipped to second last following its 2-1 loss to Ipswich Knights.

But Rochdale coach Keiran Cooper knows the battle is far from won with two tough encounters against final contenders Taringa at home and North Star away in the remaining games.

"I've always been confident we can stay up but confidence and reality are two different things," Cooper said.

Although Cooper is now looking over his shoulder at Mt. Gravatt and Easts, the former Irishman believes Rochdale can climb further up the ladder by hauling in nearest rivals Toowoomba and The Gap which is just three points clear.

Rochdale led 1-nil at the break after a 10th minute header from Damian Harris and stretched its lead to two on the hour when Adam Bray took on a Gap defender down the left flank before smashing home.

The Gap reduced the lead to 2-1 five minutes later when Brian Atkins raced onto a through ball before rifling home from outside the box. With the match delicately poised, Rochdale's Korean midfielder Kwang Moo Huh grabbed the winner with ten minutes remaining.

Cooper will welcome back three key players with the return from injury of experienced midfielder Michael Legg and Michael Bishop while Paul Grugan is back after a recent suspension. Gap coach Ashley Hempstead had no excuses for the loss.

"We were poor in the first half and they caught us on the break," he said.

"We've just run out of players and we're no certainties of beating Mt. Gravatt next Saturday."

Easts coach Col Bennett was disappointed with his side's loss to Ipswich but will be looking for some change of luck in the last games against Wynnum and Brisbane City.

"We can beat Wynnum and we beat Brisbane City 4-nil this time last year which gave he premiership to Wynnum,"

Bennett said.

"We haven't had much luck of late and hopefully things will turn around."

Easts scored first following a Matt Hughes tap-in but had no luck go their way when Ipswich's Stu Drinkeld's free kick struck the underside of the crossbar before crossing the line to level in the 28th minute.

An own goal late in the game confirmed Ipswich a place in the finals but could come at a cost with Ken Caldwell to have x-rays for a possible broken jaw after an elbow clash.

"We created several good chances and we're definitely in the play offs now," Ogden said.

Ipswich opened their account in the 28th minute when Stu Drinkeld smashed home a blistering free kick before an own goal wrapped up a decisive win in the dying minutes.

"Everyone thinks when you get an own goal to win you're lucky but we dominated the game and if our heading ability was a bit better we would have scored six," Ogden said. Brisbane City returned to form to cement third position with a 1-nil win over North Star at O'Callaghan Park. Brisbane City defender Wayne Strange headed home the winner in the 75th minute off a corner from Raj Kumar.

The goal was tinged with controversy when Strange's header was cleared off the line but was judged to have crossed the goal line by officials.

North Star coach Bobby Hamilton had no qualms with the decision but believed his side should have been awarded a penalty after Brisbane City's Nathan Knox appeared to have handballed in the penalty area. North Star was missing six players including veteran defenders Mark Greer, Michael Brockwell and Steve Melville.

"Those three are our defence alone and the team was decidedly different to what I normally put on the park," Hamilton said.

"We had a couple of chances but there wasn't much in the game," Hamilton said.

"Shaun Blackman had one great chance to equalise but his strike went just wide after beating Scott Higgins."

Hamilton is not convinced North Star are certain finals contenders and believes they'll need to win one of its last two games to be assured of figuring in the playoffs.

City coach Frank Pimblett was relieved with the win, which ended a horror run

including a midweek Queensland Cup semi-final loss on penalties to the Gold Coast.

"North Star had a few players out but it's nice to finally win again," Pimblett said.

"Rochdale was our last win and it feels like it was years ago.

"We seemed to have turned the corner and it started against the Gold Coast in the Queensland Cup.

"We were up 1-nil with five minutes to go against the Gold Coast and were matching them but they equalised and won on penalties."

Pimblett made several changes in a successful bid to break their long drought.

"I put Mark Battistin back to sweeper and put Kumar in midfield and gave Nathan Knox his first start in premier league and it all came off," he said.

"We've lost Andy King with an ankle injury for the rest of the season but I think we've turned the corner now."

The Gold Coast will finish the season in second place after goals from Craig Watson, Ian Hutchinson and Russell Miner gave them a comfortable 3-nil win over Wynnum while Taringa also wrapped up a finals berth downing Toowoomba 2-nil.

Taringa's goals from Craig Slaughter and Luke Morley both came after the interval.



Damian Harris: Rochdale Rovers star opened his side account with a well-taken goal.

PREMIER LEAGUE - Round 20

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
1. QUEENSLAND LIONS	20	18	0	2	58	7	56
2. GOLD COAST CITY	20	15	2	3	59	16	48
3. BRISBANE CITY	20	13	4	3	35	21	42
4. IPSW KNIGHTS	20	9	6	5	33	23	32
5. NORTH STAR	20	10	8	2	34	25	32
6. TARINGA ROVERS	20	9	7	4	29	27	31
7. WYNNUM	20	7	10	3	22	34	24
8. THE GAP	20	4	9	7	22	42	19
9. T'WMBA RAIDERS	20	3	10	7	18	30	16
10. ROCHEDALE ROV	20	3	12	5	24	41	14
11. EASTERN SUBURBS	20	3	13	4	18	42	13
12. MT GRAVATT	20	2	15	3	12	56	9

Results - Round 20

BRISBANE CITY	1	NORTH STAR	0
IPSW KNIGHTS	2	EASTERN SUBURBS	1
QUEENSLAND LIONS	7	MT GRAVATT	0
ROCHEDALE ROV	3	THE GAP	1
TARINGA ROVERS	2	T'WMBA RAIDERS	0
GOLD COAST CITY	3	WYNNUM	0

FIRST DIVISION - Round 24

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
1. PINE RIVERS UTD	23	19	3	1	63	17	58
2. SOUTHS UTD	24	16	5	3	61	25	51
3. MITCHELTON	24	13	6	5	64	34	44
4. BUNDABERG WAVES	24	12	6	6	54	35	42
5. CAPALABA	24	11	6	7	61	39	40
6. ROCKLEA UTD	24	12	11	1	48	49	37
7. UNI OF QLD	23	9	6	8	47	37	35
8. INALA CITY	24	9	9	6	47	42	33
9. NEWMARKET	24	10	11	3	34	35	33
10. REDLANDS UTD	24	6	12	6	39	58	24
11. ALBANY CREEK	24	6	13	5	27	66	23
12. BRISBANE OLYMPIC UNI	24	6	14	4	19	51	22
13. GRANGE THISTLE	24	4	15	5	31	68	17
14. SLACKS CREEK	24	2	18	4	25	64	10

Results - Round 24

CAPALABA	5	ALBANY CREEK	2
BUNDABERG WAVES	5	BRISBANE OLYMPIC UNI	2
SOUTHS UTD	2	GRANGE THISTLE	0
INALA CITY	3	SLACKS CREEK	1
MITCHELTON	3	ROCKLEA UTD	1
NEWMARKET	1	REDLANDS UTD	1
PINE RIVERS UTD	N/R	UNI OF QLD	

Pine Rivers v Uni of Qld not played.

WEEKEND FIRST GRADE FIXTURES

◆ ROUND 21 ◆

GOLD COAST CITY v QUEENSLAND

WYNNUM v EASTERN SUBURBS

BRISBANE CITY v IPSW KNIGHTS

T'WMBA RAIDERS v NORTH STAR

ROCHEDALE ROVERS v TARINGA ROVERS

MT GRAVATT v THE GAP

VICTORIAN PREMIER LEAGUE

LIONS ROAR INTO VPL FINALS!

By Nick Dennis

PRESTON LIONS 2 V GREEN GULLY CAVALIERS 1

SUNDAY, 18 AUGUST 2002, B.T
CONNOR RESERVE



In the roller-coaster world of football management, John Markovsky's ride, though only just begun, has already been eventful. When he was appointed Preston's manager in Round 16 – their third for the season – his main task was to steer the out-of-form and crisis-ridden club away from relegation.

Now, just two months on, he will find himself against all expectations sitting down this week to plot a Premiership victory, after his team won its way through to the Grand Final, courtesy of a 2-1 come-from-behind victory over Green Gully.

Preston went into the game clear underdogs, though never underestimate the advantages of a home crowd, especially if that crowd is one of the noisiest, most colourful, not to mention largest group of supporters in the League.

Due to the vagaries of the finals system Preston, who finished the season in 5th place, were given the privilege of hosting against 2nd-placed Green Gully. Putting aside the fairness of that decision, there will be no argument over the fixture's success in terms of promotional appeal.

He Preston fans turned out in droves, over 3,000 of them, forcing a 15 minute delay to the game's start as they packed into the ground.

The match got off to a flying start, Preston's early pressure almost rewarded in the 5th minute when towering Lions defender Les Anastasiou rose above everyone else to meet a corner with his header. His effort was cleared off the line, and Gully then had to survive a few frantic seconds of goal-mouth scramble. But immediately on the break, Green Gully had it up the other end, striker Nick Tsaltas finding space down the left provided a cross for Simon Storey who from 10 metres out slotted the ball home to put Green Gully 1-0 ahead.

Five minutes later Green Gully came close to doubling their lead when Mijo Trupkovic found Tsaltas in space on the left again, but his effort from a sharp angle hit the post. At the other end, in the 12th minute, Preston's Sammy Faris almost got a goal with a spectacular bicycle kick, and just two minutes later Preston had another half-chance when 30 metres out from goal Lion's striker John Sapazovski won an aerial duel with Zoran Markovski. It left him a clear run to goal but fortunately for Green Gully, keeper Brian had shown anticipation to come rushing out of the area to chest the ball away before Sapazovski could get to

the ball. In the 20th minute, Preston midfielders Josip Kozic and Nick Cuculevski combined down the left, Cuculevski beat his man and fired in a cross for Sapazovski, but it had too much power on it and Sapazovski was unable to keep his header down. In the 35th minute, Cuculevski again made a good run down the left, crossed to Stiven Markovski in the box but he dwelled on the ball too long and the Gully defence was able to close down the danger. Two minutes later, Green Gully midfielder Henry Velkovski had the chance to unleash one of his characteristic drives from outside the box when the ball was only half-cleared by the Preston defence. It fell for him invitingly, he certainly got the power behind his shot but it flew just over the bar.

Going into half-time with a 1-0 lead, Green Gully would have been feeling quietly confident of finishing off the job. Their defence is arguably the tightest in the league, and they seemed to be comfortably handling the Preston direct style of play.

Gully started the second half in a positive fashion, realising that a second goal early on could effectively kill off the Preston challenge.

Velkovski had a 35-metre drive, again hit with power but just wide, and in the 60th minute Trupkovic's free kick sailed just a metre or so over the top of the bar.

Then a minute later came the game's turning point. Sapazovski freed himself and ran with the ball into the penalty area, and defender Zoran Markovski under pressure hand-balled to concede a penalty.

Preston captain Chris Emovski with a minimum of fuss stepped up to the spot. As if oblivious to the pressure of the occasion, the sea of anxious, hopeful supporters behind the goal, and the Green Gully attempts to distract him, he calmly drove the ball down the middle as Brian dived the wrong way to his left. Cue for three thousand Preston supporters to erupt with joy.

Green Gully looked to respond to the challenge, and from the kick-off Trupkovic broke down the left. He was caught by a late tackle, and Trupkovic showed his displeasure by shoving his opponent. Suddenly players were rushing from everywhere, there was plenty of pushing and shoving, referee Dominic Barba caught in the middle, the crowd baying for blood and things threatening to get out of hand. When it all calmed down, Mr Barba, not known for his lenient approach to refereeing, showed Trupkovic the red card.

All the momentum was with Preston, now playing with a one-man advantage – two-man advantage if you count thousands of chanting, banner-waving, flair-throwing fans as an extra man. Yet Preston seemed unable to capitalise on

NSW Summer Super League Expands to the Illawarra Region

The New South Wales Soccer Federation (NSWSF) Board last week resolved that there will be 12 clubs competing in the 2002-2003 Summer Super League (Premier Competition) with the promotion of Rockdale City Suns from the Winter Super League and the relegation of the Sutherland Sharks.

Applications by Macarthur Rams and Fraser Park were also denied based on different elements of criteria.

In promoting the Rockdale City Suns, the NSWSF Board recognised that the First Grade team had lead the Winter Super League Competition from Round 1 and that their Under 19 team had also finished the competition as minor premiers.

But the most appealing factor in the decision to promote Rockdale City Suns was that the club had entered into a joint venture agreement with Illawarra soccer club, Cringila Lions, who are based at John Crehan Park, Cringila (near Port Kembla).

Under the agreement between the two clubs, Rockdale City Suns will play all home game fixtures at John Crehan Park and administer all facets of match day operations. In return, the Cringila Lions Soccer Club would be responsible for providing the food and beverage services as well as management of all facilities.

The Cringila Lions Soccer Club recently received a NSW Department of Sport and Recreation grant of \$38,290 for the construction of covered grandstand with a seating capacity of 1500 at John Crehan Park. The Cringila Lions Soccer Club also has a 21-year lease on this ground, and at the most recent Grand-Final hosted 6,500 spectators.

"The Board congratulates Rockdale for the initiative of taking the game to the Illawarra region, and also in securing an outstanding venue. We made this decision in line with our future plans to

regionalise the Premier Competition in NSW, and see the Illawarra as a important region and not an expansion of the metropolitan area" said NSWSF President, Mr Tom A. Doumanis.

The Board particularly noted the efforts of the Macarthur Rams Soccer Club in obtaining Campbelltown City Council's support to use the Campbelltown Sports Stadium as a home venue and recognises that the Macarthur region is another integral element in the regionalisation of the Premier competition for the years ahead.

The application by Fraser Park was also favourably reviewed by the Board, however the criteria was not met to the same level as those submitted by Rockdale City Suns and Macarthur Rams.

The decision to relegate the Sutherland Sharks was based on performance criteria that was endorsed by all clubs competing in the 2001-02 Summer Super League (Premier Competition). The Board was also of the opinion that the relegation of the Sutherland Sharks to the Winter Super League would provide an opportunity for the club to re-establish itself as a significant force in an area that has traditionally the largest participation base within the metropolitan area.

Speaking on behalf of the NSWSF, Mr Doumanis added, "We feel for the Sutherland Sharks who have been a long standing member of the Premier Competition, however promotion and relegation are fundamental to the continued development and expansion of the League."

The twelve clubs that will compete in the 2002-03 Summer Super League (Premier Competition) are: Bankstown City Lions, Belconnen United, Blacktown City Demons, Bonnyrigg White Eagles, Canterbury-Marrickville Olympic, Central Coast Coasties, Fairfield Bulls, A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers, Parramatta Eagles, Penrith Panthers, Rockdale City Suns and St. George Saints.



NSW YOUTH LEAGUE RE-STRUCTURES FOR THE FUTURE

For almost 12 months representatives of clubs competing in various divisions of Youth and Cadet League have been meeting as the Youth League Advisory Committee (YLAC) to formulate a strategy and provide a report for the future of the code that is based upon the involvement of the State's Youth League teams from Under 11 to Under 17.

At the Board meeting of the NSW Soccer Federation that was held on 14 August 2002, recommendations of the YLAC were considered and a report identifying the future direction of the game for our younger participants was accepted.

The YLAC, endorsed by both the NSW Soccer Federation (NSWSF) and NSW Amateur Soccer Federation (NSWASF), requested individual input from members relating to important issues to include ground criteria, age groups,

fee structure, representation of clubs, representative teams, registration and trial periods.

"The recommendations of the Advisory committee have given the board the opportunity to create far reaching changes to elite youth competitions which will also involve the associations playing an important role in elite youth development", said NSWSF President, Mr Tom A. Doumanis.

"It gives our respective organisations the chance to demonstrate to the soccer community the advantages of a unified body. We are confident that, working in conjunction with our partners, we will see elite and grass roots development reach new heights in this state", he said.

The YLAC identified its mission statement as (The re-introduction of an elite youth competition while assisting the re-growth of the grass roots game). In clearly identifying its objectives, the committee acknowledged that it would set firm parameters to include recommendations made in the best interest of the game at both elite and grass roots level.

Working under the premise that Unification will happen, the recommendations, once endorsed by both Federation Boards, will allow for a phased implementation of a truly elite competition. The consistent application of promotion and relegation was identified in the committee's recommendations and has so far been endorsed by the NSWSF Board.

In perhaps the most significant re-structure proposal the Under 11 competition will be made up of Association representative teams only in 2003, while further expansion in 2004 will see both the Under 11 and Under 12 competitions made up of the same base of Association representatives

exclusively.

Equally as significant, the age groups for Youth League for 2003 will remain in place from Under 12 to Under 17 inclusive. In keeping with the proposal to consolidate the U11 and U12 Association representative teams in 2004, age groups for Youth League from that time will be Under 13, Under 14, Under 15, Under 16 and Under 18.

"Although the report was not completely endorsed, speaking on behalf of the committee (YLAC), we are satisfied to see that the majority of recommendations will be implemented in the immediate future.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the committee for their time and efforts in the development of this important document", said chairman of the YLAC, Vince Balzan.

The same sentiments were similarly endorsed by the full board of the NSWSF.



their advantage. Fatigue and tension were clearly becoming factors as moves broke down through poor passing or players getting caught in possession. There were limited opportunities in the last half hour of normal time, though Velkovski came close to winning the game for Green Gully in injury time, his drive from 25 metres out tipped over the bar by Preston keeper Pasi Schwalger.

And so the game went into extra-time. In the first stanza there were half-chances at either end. First, Preston's Kozic had a shot but it didn't have the power to trouble the keeper. Then a few minutes later, after a great run from Tsaltas for Green Gully, Velkovski also failed to get enough power on his shot. Into the last 10 minutes, and with the dreaded penalty shoot-out looming, the tension continued to mount. Emovski set up Cuculevski but he took too long to take his shot and

the defence swarmed on him. At the other end, Green Gully substitute Brendan Vassallo took the ball down the right flank, then delivered the perfect cross – low and hard and just in front of the keeper. Storey was almost in position to get his foot to the ball and into the net – almost but for a few agonising centimetres, and the ball eluded him. Immediately the ball was up the other end, and Preston's extra man advantage finally told when a great pass from Cuculevski found Sapazovski unmarked to the left of goal. He trapped the ball, with another touch improved his position, and with just the keeper barring his way, shot truly to beat Brian's despairing dive and send Preston into the Grand Final with a Golden Goal.

After six months of intrigue, there's now only two teams standing: Minor Premiers and favourites, Fawkner Blues,

and the season's surprise packages, Preston Lions. Appropriately next week's Grand Final will be a match-up between the two form sides of the competition, Fawkner with five wins in a row, and Preston undefeated in nine games. And with Lions victory their supporters seem to double in number, so expect a good crowd at Bob Jane Stadium next Sunday.

VPL GRAND FINAL

The Victorian Premier League Final will be held at Bob Jane Stadium on Sunday 25th August at 3:00 PM

Fawkner Blues SC versus Preston Lions.



Who will be the victor in this week's Premier League Final – Fawkner Blues or Preston Lions.

Letters to the Editor

Bring on the review

Dear Sir,
I am once again appalled by the monkeys currently running Soccer Australia. Over the weekend Nick Griener appeared on Sportswatch to confess the current state of the organisation.

Without hesitation he said that he would not fix the problems currently plaguing the governing body. As president isn't that his job! How do we expect to move anywhere when our own bloody soccer president refuses to get off his backside and work towards fixing the problem.

In the interview, he said that it would be about a year before Soccer Australia is in any sort of state to begin looking towards the future. My question to him is this...How do you expect to get there when you have decided to do nothing? Magic fairies that will come through the night!

He said that he had experienced problems in his business and political career that are like those currently crippling Soccer Australia. I can now see why he no longer has any political or business ventures of great note to speak of with such a

poor attitude like that.

Bring on the independent commission. In the past reviews, have been done by those within Soccer Australia and because of this, the glaring incompetence of board members has not been uncovered.

The independent review board will surely uncover this and put a stop to it before it is too late.

True the game's structure may need to be changed but not as much as those currently running the game.

J. Squillari
On the email

Will there be an Under 16's Competition next Season?

Dear Sir,
Firstly, let me congratulate Peter Crouch for his bravery in stating his views in the letter in ABSW, dated July 30th. Finally, there seems to be people out there who have an opinion, that it is allowed to be heard, and that it seems is similar to mine.

How many more of us are out there? Now to Mr Mark's letter, published in ABSW, dated July 30th.

It's pleasing to get a response from the New South Wales Soccer Federation, but I tend to believe that it has not yet answered my original concern.

The concern is the loss of so many youngsters from the NSW's Youth League Under 16 age group.

Whilst taking into consideration the points raised by Mr Mark, the direction of the argument seems to force a digression from the more specific issue of the Under 16s Division.

Firstly, whilst it may be, in part, an emotive issue, the point of returning to an Under 16 Division can be argued in an objective and logical manner.

Will it be considered as such by the newly established Youth League Advisory Committee, and subsequently NSW's Board.

What consultative opportunities has the Advisory Committee taken? Has it seriously spoken to the youngsters,

their parents, and other involved personnel, or has it sat with its 'members' in a locked room, or has it been extremely selective about from whom it wishes to hear?

Speaking to people involved at a few clubs, no one seems to have had a visit from Federation personnel canvassing this issue with grassroots involves.

I challenge even the Board of NSW's, from the President, Mr Tom Doumanis to Mr Ross Kelly and others, to spend some time in the trenches and talk to a lot of kids, parents and other people at the grassroots level to get another view on this issue, this time from the 'troops on the ground.'

Second, in relation to some other issue raised by Mr Mark:

1. It is optional as to whether the Under 13s remain in the Youth Leagues competition, but they certainly don't need to be eliminated altogether. Maybe they can be transferred to the Cadet Leagues. Therefore there will still be four games on a Saturday, but three (Under 11s, 12s and 13s) on Sunday.

2. Degradation of fields as a result of excess usage by only one further team per two weeks may not be too much of a problem. This issue is one of maintenance of grounds by the Councils and clubs that use them.

If we really want to promote the game to the

extent of encouraging increasing numbers in participation, the grounds issue will have to be solved anyway.

3. The issue of earlier preparation of grounds by ground staff is a non-issue because, if my first point is considered above, there should be little problem in preparation.

4. There has always been a shortage of referees. Whilst we need them to officiate at games, the issue is, again, separate from the structure of the present Youth Leagues competition. One would think that encouraging people to become a referee would be more essential than limiting the number of games because having to get referees may be put in the too hard basket. Many would argue that the issue is more one of the quality of referees and refereeing in this elite level.

5. The 'elite level' may need to be redefined. how many players/teams/divisions do you need for an 'elite level' of competition before the quality suffers and it becomes a farcical competition. maybe reducing the numbers and increasing the quality would be an answer to many of the points above.

The issue of elitism and pathways for future State and National representation I would be happy to opine at a later stage.

6. The nasty issue of 'bench-warming' is not

necessarily an important part of the game at the elite Youth Leagues level. Whilst the introduction of an interchange system is a marked improvement on the previous substitution system - and I congratulate the Federation for its foresight in including it - development means giving as many players in the teams playing time (they won't learn anything on the bench except how to keep their bums warm!)

7. I also congratulate the Federation on recognising that 'retention rates in teenage age groups is a problem ...' Eliminating an Under 16 level of competition seems to me only assisting that sad trend and that would be a sad indictment on the Federation's supposed philosophy of supporting increasing player participation.

What was the problem previously that led to the illuminary change to an Under 17s division at the expense of the Under 16s. I don't think it was such a great idea and, as such, I still prefer the return of the Under 16s.

The question still is, will we see an Under 16s division in all Youth Leagues next year, 2003?

I don't think it's too difficult a decision.

S. Russo,
Bossley Park.

Commission has arrived at last

Dear Sir,
It is about time that an independent review is launched into the workings of Soccer Australia.

Not only will the investigation find a plethora of ineptitude running from the very top right through the ranks, but they will also find the stench of a corrupt body feeding off the ambitions of a record number of youngsters.

For too long Soccer Australia has

tried to solve its problems by passing the buck to other organisations and sections of the soccer community. Earlier this year we saw them in a dog-fight with their marketing company about unpaid revenue, the issue about a national registration fee and most recently the Socceroos playing for nothing in their Confederations Cup.

The reason SA do not have any money is because of the people involved in the game have little or

no knowledge when it comes to the administration of soccer. Soccer like any business is based on performance and when the board is not performing how does soccer expect to function.

I say bring on the Commission and flush out the dirt that has built up in Soccer Australia over the years.

Mitchell Carter
Stockton NSW

FESTIVAL MAYHEM

Dear Sir,
So here is another case of abuse of authority. Regrettably, here in Adelaide you may only rejoice when your Aussie Rules team wins. You may celebrate and rejoice, but when your Soccer team wins (the so-called Sheila's, wogs and poofers' Sport). We are supposed to behave in a manner best suited to a tea party in Buckingham Palace. Or so the Security guards think!

At Hindmarsh Stadium recently during the Festival Cup, my 15 year old son, over-joyed by Italian team Juventus' win, tried to connect with his friend and rejoice. When he was roughly man handled by over exaggerating security guards. My son struggled and pleaded to be unhand-ed. This resulted in severe bruising and scratching to his arm and torso. He is distraught and vowed never to visit a stadium again that will stifle his enthusiasm for his beloved sport.

I say, how can these two men, behave as if they were dealing with an adult at a pub, destroy my son's dreams? They were there to protect the youth not abuse them on an evening that promised to be euphoric instead turned out to be a nightmare?

Come on Aussies isn't it about time we gave Soccer a go!

Nicole
Adelaide.

Clean Up Soccer Australia Day

Dear Sir,
How grand it is to see the Australian Sports Commission reviewing our game for the better!

So much dirt, scum and filth was present at SA for far too long, I say scrap the current

'brain surgeons' and replace them with ex-Soccer players who know what its like to have played a soccer match.

For far too long we as soccer followers in this country have sur-cumbed to second rate administrators who always say that they want

whats best for the game however do nothing to save it.

In my opinion, for the good of the game, I say change the current SA board and replace it with a new breed of REAL soccer followers who will do what it takes to bring this game back to life.

Johnny Warren being appointed for a role in Australia's bid for the 2014 was a wise move, more inclusions like that would really turn the game the right way.

Raymond Stafford,
Preston, VIC.

WELL DONE RASIC!

Dear Sir,
I'd like to comment on the article published in last week's ABSW on Rale Rasic speaking his mind on various issues in Australia.

This was a brilliant interview, which should shut many mouths out there who believed Australia has what it takes to host a World Cup. Rasic has demanded any blueprints from Bob Carr on how the World Cup bid should be staged, Rasic was quite right in saying that with elections coming up, politicians would do anything for a vote.

This man was the only man ever to have taken Australia to a World Cup, he would know best on this particular agenda, especially if we want to compare it to the fellow interviewed a few weeks before

George Negus.

I'm sorry to say but Negus should really stick to what he's doing at the moment, I would not want him involved in soccer again, we all saw what a GOOD job he did when he and David Hill were in charge.

Keep up the solid interviews, good to see a legend of this game in Australia acknowledged for once, as many other media papers have shunned him!

S. Venison,
Oakden, South Australia



Rale Rasic

GREAT NATIONAL LEAGUE NEWS ABSW!

Dear Sir,
Just wanted to let you know that you are doing a terrific job in giving the readers the best possible coverage so far for the National League in terms of which clubs have bought new players.

I've been flicking through a few Daily Telegraph and SMH's for the past few weeks to find nothing but overseas football news.

I'm an Aussie soccer follower and its good to see that your publication has gone through the time

and effort in giving people what they need in terms of Australian football and its news.

Its not an easy thing to do but with the various interviews on players, coaches and transfer news I've seen come through the paper, its doing justice to its name 'The Australian and British Soccer Weekly.'

Well-done guys keep up the good work!

John Stamvakis,
Rockdale, NSW.

VENABLES KIDDING?

Dear Sir,
I couldn't believe my eyes when I flipped to page 2 in your paper about Paul Okon's move to Leeds United - What a joke!

Is Terry Venables kidding himself if he thinks that Okon, at age 30, will be a good buy for the club?

Okon was in top form during his stay in Belgium, I thought that his performances then were terrific, but the midfielder sustained a nasty injury that pretty much sidelined him for good.

His stints in Italy and England lately were a waste, he did nothing



Terry Venables.

but warm the bench and as for the inclusion of Okon as Socceroo Captain, I really beg to differ with Farina's views on that one.

Unfortunately with his move to Leeds, I guess Frank will keep Okon at the top, but I'm sorry to say that Paul's time is over!

Maybe he can prove me wrong but I think he will play second fiddle to the likes of Dacourt, Bakke, Bowyer even young McMaster would be a better option to use rather than Okon.

Steve Manson,
Pine Rivers, QLD.

OLYMPIC TO GO?

Dear Sir,
I still can't believe the news that the Sharks could be well out of the National League this season if they fail to join with Leeds United.

It's such a cruel thing to know that one of the best clubs in this country could face extinction?

I hope for the sake of the National League it doesn't, seeing the Sharks play in the NSW

Premier League would be a disaster.

I'm an avid Olympic supporter and I for one don't want to see them fall down. I just hope that on the 1st of September, good news will be heard coming from the club.



A Concerned Sharks Fan!
Peter Stivactas,
Casula, NSW.

OFF THE CROSSBAR



By Allan Crisp

ITALIAN TRIO JOIN FORCE

Adelaide City Force has hit the recruiting trail with a vengeance clinching the return of Claudio Pelosi and Gianluca Lagati, as well as snaring ex-Parma and Perugia defender Diego Pellegrini.

The trio, have signed one-year contracts and will join City's other acquisitions, midfielder, Goran Lozanovski, defender, Michael Valkanis, striker, Shane Smeltz and goalkeeper, Ian Martin.

New City coach Charley Villani knows exactly what to expect from former crowd favourite Pelosi, who played 48 games in his previous two seasons with the Force and flank defender Lagati, who made 34 NSL appearances.

Central defender Pellegrini, 31, played for Italian Serie C2 club Sanbenedettese last season and was with Empoli from 1986 until 1993.

He played one season with Vicenza before switching to Parma, Ancona, Perugia and Savoia.

Since his two seasons (2000-2001) with City, Lagati has played for Italian club Aprilia.



Bob D'Ottavi: Adelaide Force President.



Goran Lozanovski: Will feature as one of the Forces main players this season.

Force president Bob D'Ottavi negotiated the return of Pelosi and Lagati whilst on a business trip to Italy and signed Pellegrini on the recommendation of Pelosi.

The latter stayed behind in Italy to tidy up his affairs and is due to arrive in Adelaide in a fortnight.

D'Ottavi reasoned that the NSL team would need three goalkeepers as Martin joined Daniel Godley and David Scarsella (elder son of Oceania president, Basil Scarsella) in the Forces gloved brigade.

"We have recruited well and with our young players I think we can look forward to the season with a lot of optimism," D'Ottavi said.



Michael Valkanis: New Adelaide Force recruit.

However, one City youngster, Iain Fyfe, could be missing when the season starts as the ace defender has flown to England for arranged trials with Leeds United.

The former Joey (Under 17 international) is expected to spend two weeks with the Terry Venables coached club before returning to Adelaide City on September 2.

Should Leeds show an interest in signing Fyfe, City is expected to seek a transfer fee in the vicinity of \$100,000 to \$200,000 range.

Should a deal be struck, Adelaide City would ask for a flow-on agreement for future transfers.

NO MATCH FOR FIRE

It is common knowledge now that an 11th hour bid by a South Australian consortium to enter a second team in the NSL for season 2002-03, has been officially rejected.

The South Australian Soccer Federation, which failed in its attempt to launch a second team under the Adelaide Fire banner two years ago, was set to endorse the move.

It made sense to have the SA State team as the basis of the new club, with State coach Mike Barnett earmarked as its chief mentor.

Corporate sponsorship for the scheme was in place, while several players were unofficially sounded out as to their availability, should the idea bear fruit.

While SA Premier League club Olympic FC was a front runner in early negotiations to secure sponsorship, the overall plan was to provide SA with an Adelaide Crows-style neutrality aimed squarely at attracting new, unattached supporters.

Since the demise of the West Adelaide Sharks and the Adelaide Rams rugby league club, a second Adelaide team is sorely needed to fully utilise Hindmarsh Stadium.

And, opponents of the annoying, disruptive bye inflicted by the 13-team for-

mat surely would have welcomed the ignition of Adelaide Fire.

CHANGES FOR THE FEST



The Festival Cup 2002 will go down in soccer history as the year the world came to Adelaide to play the world game.

While acknowledging that the Under 20 series provided exciting, highly entertaining football, tournament executive director Mike Kennedy has recognised some shortcomings in the inaugural event and signalled changes for next season.

A new pricing structure designed to encourage families is high on the new agenda, while some games could be played in country areas.

Those proposed changes indicate that the organisers are aware that to play seven double-header programs at Hindmarsh Stadium on successive nights is stretching the back pocket nerves of most fans.

The introduction of a minimum age limit of 16 is another likely change after some teams played 15-year olds in the series just concluded.

Kennedy said that Festival Cup winners Glasgow Rangers, runner-up Australs, Newcastle United and Juventus would be invited again next year.

New opponents for those teams being targeted are Manchester United, River Plate, Barcelona and Inter Milan.

SASF 2002 TOP FIVE SERIES WEEK ONE

HINDMARSH STADIUM

Saturday, August 24

Premier League Elimination Final

Raiders v Playford Patriots (12.15pm)

Premier League Qualifying Final

Blue Eagles v Metro Stars (2.45pm)

Sunday, August 25

State League Elimination Final

Noarlunga United v Northern Demons (12.15pm)

State League Qualifying Final

Cumberland Foxes v Enfield Falcons (2.45pm)

Sunday, August 25

CARNEGIE RESERVE

Premier League Under 23s Elimination Final

Blue Eagles v Adelaide City (12.15pm)

Premier League Under 23s Qualifying Final

Playford Patriots v SASI (2.45pm)



GALAXY SHINES IN FINAL

Premier League hotshot Adelaide Galaxy won the division revision West End Federation Cup final 3-0 over State League champions Croydon Kings at Hindmarsh Stadium on Saturday.

Croydon coach Ernie Loungo knows now how much improvement will be needed when the Kings return to the elite league next season.

Croydon put on a brave front in the early stages of the knock-out trophy series forcing Galaxy to wait 23 minutes before Aaron Westervelt snatched the lead with a 30 metre drive that bounced in front of Croydon goalkeeper Daniel Christison before resting high in the net.

The Kings suffered a huge set-back when talented striker Anthony Deptula was forced off the field with a injury in the 22nd minute.

State team star Westervelt was at his goal scoring best again 14 minutes later with a power drive that was beautifully struck wide of the goalkeeper.

It was a feather in Croydons cap that the side from Croydon Park was able to restrict the strong Galaxy team to a meagre two-goal margin at the interval.

Kings captain Shane Porter was determined to bring his outstanding career to a memorable close by leading his predominately young team by example.

But the standard gap raised its head in the 51st minute when Paul Karittevlis slammed home a glorious drive to put the final beyond the Kings reach.

Croydon substitute Steve Pirone gave his team a glimmer of retribution when he crossed the ball from the right, but Craig Woods narrowly missed connecting with a despairing lunge.

A smooth flowing move, started by Jim Tsekinis and continued by Westervelt was nodded on target by Dusty McGregor, but Christison saved brilliantly.

Westervelt was outstanding for the winner, along with Jinky Jim Tsekinis, McGregor, Karittevlis and Galaxy goalkeeper Matthew Milosevic, who was at the top of his form.

Porter offered superb resistance for the runner-up, supported by Marc Woods,



Galaxy star Jim Tsekinis played on instrumental role in their victory of Croydon Park.

Craig Woods, James Charnstrom and Christison.

Galaxy now adds The West End Cup to the Summer Series triumph and the Premier League minor championship.

Now for the Top Five Play-offs and the Grand Final.

WEST END CUP FINAL

GALAXY3
(Westervelt 23, 37, Karittevlis 51)

CROYDON KINGS0

Referee: Sam Hasic. Cautions: Kokkinopitis (Galaxy)

Teams: **GALAXY:** Milosevic, Yates, Kokkinopitis (Graham 66), Westervelt, Ferreira (Dawes 87), Thompson, McGregor (Scarsella 89), Karittevlis, Pezos, Stam (Russell 46), Tsekinis.

CROYDON KINGS: Christison, S. Porter, Matikulas, Charnstrom, Musolino (Pergoletto 67), McMillan, M. Woods, Richardson (Donovan 46), Pitucci, C. Woods, Deptula (S. Pirone 22).

PSV LOSES WILSON

Aussie midfielder Lindsay Wilson has got off to the worst possible start with Dutch giants PSV Eindhoven after suffering an ankle injury that is expected to sideline him for up to six weeks.



Lindsay Wilson will be out for at least six weeks with an ankle injury.

The dynamic midfielder was injured while playing for the PSV Youth Team in a match in Groningen.

The club's website reported that Wilson was cut down by a 'violent' challenge by an opposing defender.

Wilson only moved to the Netherlands in the off-season despite signing a lucrative five-year deal with the club in September last year.

At that stage, Wilson decided to utilise a clause in his contract that enabled him to play out the National Soccer League season with the Olympic Sharks, who he helped to the Australian title.

PSV kicked off their title challenge on Saturday with a comfortable 2-0 win over Excelsior.

It was a first debut match for young former U17 Joeys star Brett Holman who played a full 90 minutes for Excelsior.

Holman from reports played really well and the coaching staff at the Dutch club are said to be very happy with young Holman who faired in last season's National League with the Parramatta Power.

STERREY IS A HUNGRY LION

Bankstown City Lions Soccer FC officials who recently pulled off a coup by signing former NSL coach Lee Sterrey for the forthcoming 2002-03 NSW PREMIER LEAGUE, already have quickly noticed their new coach's hunger for success.

During this off-season, Sterrey has already amazed Club officials with his vast insight knowledge of a multitude of players, including their weaknesses, mentality and degree of competitiveness.

traditionally a strong Club both on and off the field and has a vast powerful Junior base from which to streamline young players into 1st Grade.

"For me it is very important that the Senior squad is seen to strongly challenge for top honours this coming season," stated Sterrey.

"I'm targeting to build a very strong Senior team for the NSW Premier League Championship race and hopefully bring the title back to Bankstown," he warned.

The Lions' President, Mr Louie Apostolovski, stated

Sterrey has already blue-printed four full scale pre-season trial matches against Central Coast, Canterbury Marrickville, Parramatta Eagles plus one against Blacktown City Demons in October and November.

And what's Sterrey's deep-seated hungry target?

"When the NSW Premier League kicks off, I want the Lions' squad to be able to hit the pitch at top pace."

TRIAL MATCHES

(1) Match: vs. Central Coast Coasties

Venue: Jensen Park, Clapham Rd SEFTON

Date: Sunday 27th October 2002

U19's: Kick Off 4:00pm

1st Grade: Kick Off 6:00pm

(2) Match: vs. Canterbury Marrickville

Venue: Jensen Park, Clapham Rd SEFTON

Date: Wednesday 30th October 2002

1st Grade: Kick Off 7:00pm..(nb. U19's - No game has been scheduled)

(3) Match: vs. Parramatta Eagles

Venue: Jensen Park, Clapham Rd SEFTON

Date: Sunday 3rd November 2002

U19's: Kick Off 4:00pm

1st Grade: Kick Off 6:00pm

(4) Match: vs. Blacktown City Demons

Venue: Jensen Park, Clapham Rd SEFTON

Date: Sunday 10th November 2002

U19's: Kick Off 4:00pm

1st Grade: Kick Off 6:00pm

NORTHERN SPIRIT THE 'VICTOR'S' IN CHASE FOR TOMASEVIC

By Ben Moring

Sydney-based club, the Northern Spirit have recently acquired the services of another talented young gun, 22-year-old Vuko Tomasevic from NSW Summer Super League outfit, the Bonnyrigg White Eagles.

Tomasevic has been tipped by many coaches to become an instant hit at the North Sydney club, with Lawrie McKinna an instrumental player in 'Victor's' decision to choose Spirit over Marconi, for which Tomasevic played for at both youth and senior levels.

This emerging talent is well known in New South Wales, playing for leading clubs Bonnyrigg White Eagles, APIA Leichhardt Tigers and Marconi youth, as well as breaking into the Marconi senior ranks. But Tomasevic has also come through the highly successful AIS program and has already represented his country at both under-17s (Joeys) and under-20s level.

Spirit coach McKinna has turned to selected youth in order to substantiate the under-achieving club's ambitions for climbing the ranks in Australia's elite competition, the NSL. 'Victor' has been busy in the build-up to this season and commented upon the difference between elite state-based competition, as opposed to the national-based league.

"For a start, it is very professional at Spirit," said Tomasevic.

"We train every day at ten in the morning and we work on everything."

"There is a higher standard of play and the coaching is better."

"The top couple of sides like Blacktown, Bonnyrigg and Parramatta would do very well in the NSL, but the fitness levels are the key area and training more increases your fitness which gives you more confidence."

"The skill level and technique are not much different, but fitness is the main difference."

Gaining regular playing time is para-

mount to developing into the true professional and McKinna has earmarked this youngster as a potential starting left back, a switch from the more familiar midfield role he has recently been accustomed to. But coach and player have been in constant discussion about the role Tomasevic is to play at Spirit.

"I have spoken a bit about it (with McKinna)," he said.

"I will be playing at left back this year and it was a position that needed to be filled."

"I'm pretty keen on playing this position, but basically I'll play wherever I get the opportunity."

"I have played there (left back) for most of my junior years."

"Lawrie watched me for a couple of games during the Summer Super League and he watched the semi final, where I had a pretty good game."

"A couple of coaches recommended me as a left back."

"I actually also had an offer to go to Marconi, where I was a junior and played a couple of games in the first team, but I weighed things up and decided I wanted a fresh start and at Spirit I have a good chance of starting regularly."

The AIS has a proven track record of producing talented exports and due to the confidence gained at the Institute, Tomasevic has ultimate ambitions of making the grade overseas and representing the Socceroos with pride.

Tomasevic stated: "The AIS was the two best years of my life, the coaching and everything opens your mind tactically and you understand and read the game a lot better."

"It was the best thing for me."

"I am hopeful to go overseas, I think that is everybody's aim."

"I will try to play to the best of my ability if I can, then the offers will inevitably come."

"Progressing through the Australian ranks is all about playing good, playing to the best of your ability."



New Spirit signing Vuko Tomasevic looking forward to a huge season under coach Lawrie McKinna.

"It is easier to make it if you are playing overseas, but if you are playing good football here or overseas you'll be picked, but there is a higher standard overseas."

"My aim for this season is to be playing regularly and playing to the best of my ability."

"I want to get the most of myself and be happy with my play and also give 100%."

FACT FILE

Name: Vuko Tomasevic
Age: 22
Former Clubs: Bonnyrigg White Eagles, Leichhardt Tigers, Marconi, AIS
Honours: Australia Under-17s (Joeys), Under-20s
NSW Summer Super League Select Team (captain)
NSW representative: (Under-13s to Under-16s)



LEE STERREY: Lions' hungry newly signed coach.

It's no real secret for people that have worked with the young and alert no-nonsense Sterrey, to quickly recognise his razor-sharp brain and his deep-seated hunger for success.

"Bankstown City Lions is

recently:

"With our Coaching Staff finalised and with some good new players, the Lions will be one of the major forces in the NSW Premier League."

Always quick into action,

All Whites leap up rankings

New Zealand's victory over Australia in the recent Oceania Nations Cup has seen the All Whites leap 41 places on the FIFA world rankings.

The Kiwis have jumped from 88th to 47th place, only one behind the Socceroos, who moved up four places despite that embarrassing defeat.

World champion Brazil holds down top spot by a convincing margin over Argentina, while former world champion France has slipped from equal second immediately after this year's World Cup finals to fourth behind Spain, which climbs one notch.

Germany remains in fifth place, followed by Mexico, while England and Portugal share seventh place, making next month's friendly between the two European neighbours all the more interesting.

Italy and the United States are joint-ninth, marking the first time that the US has made the top 10, while Colombia, who failed to qualify for the World Cup, has slipped from ninth to 16th.

Although few European and South American teams have been in action in the six weeks since the World Cup final, there have been nearly 50 matches which have affected the rankings, while historical ranking points have also been lost.

FIFA World Rankings:

1. (1) Brazil	859 points
2. (2=)	Argentina 781
3. (4)	Spain 775
4. (2=)	France 772
5. (5)	Germany 764
6. (6)	Mexico 733
7= (8)	England 728
7= (7)	Portugal 728
9= (10)	Italy 714
9= (11)	United States 714
11. (12)	Turkey 707
12. (13)	Denmark 703
13. (14)	Ireland 699
14. (15)	Netherlands 693
15= (9)	Colombia 688
15= (16)	Yugoslavia 688
17. (17)	Cameroon 682
18. (19)	Belgium 677
19. (18)	Paraguay 674
20. (20)	Sweden 673
Also	
46. (50)	Australia 575
47. (88)	New Zealand 558

BILL TURNER CUP

BOYS - Round 6

Bossley Park 1 Menai 0, William Clarke College 4 Northmead 0.

Quarter Final

Cairns 1 Cavendish Road 0.

Girls - Round 6

Mount View 3 Francis Greenway 0,

Quarter Finals

Mackellar Girls 1 Endeavour Sports 0, Canberra 0-4 Albury 0-3.

University All Stars 1 NSW U17 Youth Side 2

The Eastern University All Stars recently came up against the NSW U17 Youth Side in a friendly encounter produced some quality ladies football.

The match began at a frantic pace with both teams attempting to gain the upper hand. Neither side was able to dominate play with both teams defending tightly and not allowing too much time on the ball.

When play settled down, the University All Stars made several breaks up front through Georgina Lomax and Michelle Carney, who through strong goal line defending, were narrowly denied.

As the first half continued, the NSW Youth Squad stepped up their attack and if not for strong efforts from sweeper Lisa Collins and Goal Keeper Sophia Findlay, the NSW Youth Squad would most definitely have hit the lead with several attacking plays just being kept out.

Within one minute of half time, a long range free kick from skipper Tania Cuda and a clever finish from Michelle Carney put the University All Stars in the lead.

As the second half began, the NSW Youth Squad notched up a gear and began to show their experience in playing together by putting on two early goals

from inside the box. The University All Stars now had to lift to avoid the strong finishing NSW Youth Squad.

Some strong tackling from midfielder Taryn Ruiz helped lift the University All Stars which lead to a Georgina Lomax shot being cleared off the line. The game continued on with a physical nature with neither side giving an inch. A late break made by Melanie Lopes almost lead to an equaliser right on full time. The game finishing 2-1 to the NSW Youth Squad.

From the University All Stars squad, notable performances came from Lisa Collins, Tania Cuda and Taryn Ruiz.

This was the first time when a University Sport squad competed with NSW Soccer, and judging by the extremely high level of soccer which the game produced, this game will hopefully lift the profile of University Sport. Special thanks to Gavin Macpherson from University Sport Australia for organising the game.



Back (L to R): Lance Lautier (Macquarie), Gorgina Lomax (Macquarie), Lauren Trwddel (USYD), Sarah Hudson (UNSW), Alex Smith (UNSW), Tania Cuda (Wollongong), Renae Polson (CSU-B), Marta Kielch (USYD), Taryn Ruiz (Wollongong).
Front (L to R): Jo Munn (Cumberland), Melanie Lopes (UTS), Michelle Carney (Wollongong), Sophia Findlay (Macquarie), Lisa Collins (Macquarie), Anna Fergusson (UTS).

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY YOUTH COACH STEVE DARBY UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

By Mark Stavroulakis

Almost everyday, the media hear about yet another young Australian making that move to yet another European club.

At the moment, we have hundreds of Australian-born players earning a living in football overseas, what we don't hear is how hard it is to make a squad there? What is needed to become a professional footballer? and many other underlying issues in succeeding abroad.

ABSW's editor Mark Stavroulakis caught up with former Aussie coach Steve Darby, who is currently running the show as the headman in English First Division club Sheffield Wednesday's youth side.

An ex-player and also having managed Sydney Olympic a few years back, also having been involved in the Vietnamese National Team and having coached Malaysian side Johor, 'Darbs' was put under the ABSW microscope about certain issues rising in youth football from England.

Having coached for 22 years, Darby is currently flying the Australian flag in terms of management in England.

MS: What is your role and how did you get involved in the Sheffield Wednesday youth set-up?

SD: My role at SWFC is the Youth team Coach. Basically we have 24 professional players aged between 17-20 years. My job is to teach them to be professional footballers. Both on and off the pitch.

MS: How long have you been involved at the club?

SD: I have been with the club for 1 year, after a year on the National Coaching staff of Vietnam and 3 years coaching Johor in Malaysian National League.

MS: What has been the hardest aspect of coaching a Youth side in England?

SD: The hardest part of coaching here is the reality that of my 17-20 year old squad, only 4 or 5 will make it as full time professionals on senior contracts. Telling a young player he is not going to make it is horrific, it's by far the worst part of the job, but you have to do it with honesty, and hope for the lad's sake that you are wrong. Though usually you aren't. But it's a case of I'll be happy if a player makes it somewhere else.

MS: How did you fare in last season's English competition?

SD: We reached the play offs of the national Academy leagues, then we ran into Manchester United!!! - who basically are a different class.

They pay more than we do and are prepared to pay large compensation fees to get the most talented players. The big clubs Arsenal, Leeds, Liverpool Manchester United are pulling away at every level of the game.

MS: Any Australians on the books of the youth side at the moment?

SD: We have one Aussie on the books at the moment. Mason Palmieri from Newcastle. He managed to get here before the new FIFA rule about 18 year olds. He is an excellent ambassador for Australian soccer and is a model professional, we are hoping he gets in the Australian youth set up this season. However, the new FIFA rule has basically stopped us trying to recruit Aussies.

MS: Player agents in the game, a good or bad thing for football?

SD: Good Agents are good for the game - bad agents are terrible for the game, and there are both categories. The reality is that they are here to stay. It's good to see Aussies like Andrew Bernal going into agencies, as he understands the game both here and in Australia.

MS: The difference between Australia's youth and England's?

SD: Difference between Australian Youth and English Youth is that the Aussies are more skilful and have received far better coaching through the system in Australia (i.e. AIS or state academies). The English lads are probably more street smart and ruthless, for many of them it's the only chance to make it in life. Though with the big

academies starting to succeed so well.

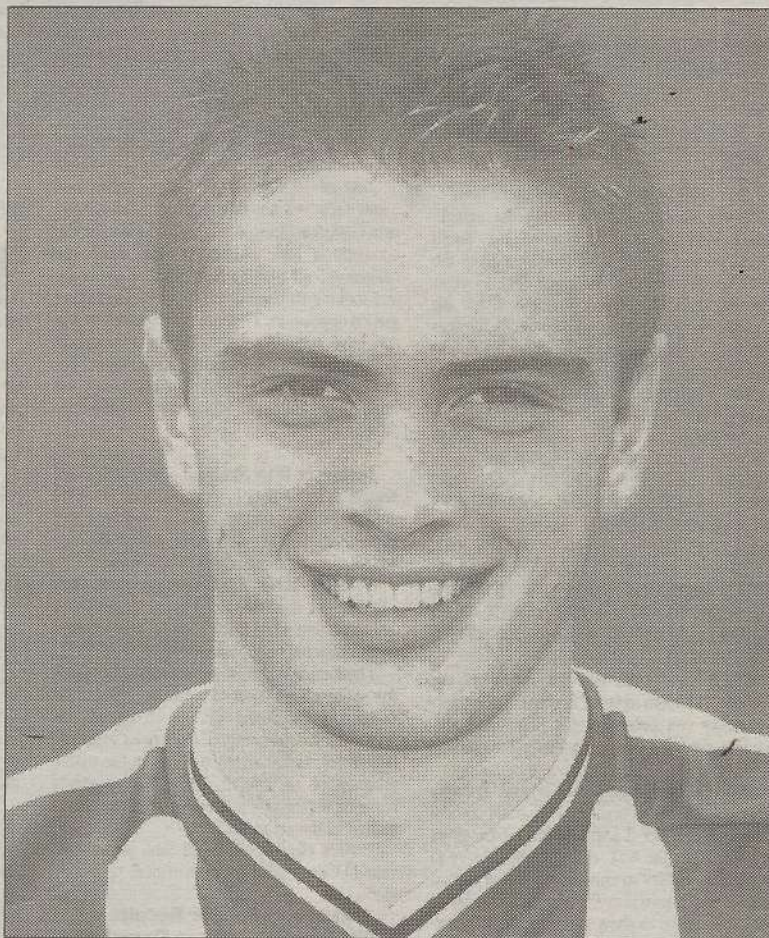
MS: AIS recently toured England and had a match against your squad, how did you rate their performance?

SD: The AIS as usual are always a quality side. The reputation of the AIS is probably better in Asia and England than in Australia. I don't think many people in Australian soccer realise how good the program is and has been for 20 years.

This year's squad was very good and beat our youth team 1-0, we would certainly be interested in a couple of the lads if they had EU passports. (The keeper and a Greek /Australian Midfield player!!!)

MS: Do you keep in touch with what's happening in Australia in terms of football?

SD: Due to the Internet I keep in regular contact with Aussie soccer and many of my ex-players keep in contact by email. This week Ned Zelic is staying with me in Sheffield and training with us between contracts. Its great having an experienced international professional working with the younger players, and he always keeps me informed of what's happening and whenever I see players like Popovic, Viduka, Okon and Schwarzer, we always talk about Aussie soccer. Everybody who has been involved in Aussie Soccer is wanting it to do well. Also our Academy Director is Jimmy



Mason Palmieri: The only Australian involved in Sheffield Wednesday's Youth set-up hailing from Newcastle.

knows in football? It's an exciting profession but not one you can ever predict. This time last year I was in Malaysia for the South East Asia games with Vietnam, next week I am at Manchester United facing their youth team. Five years ago I was Manager of Sydney Olympic! There's no logic in football, but I've been coaching full time for 22 years so I've had a great time so far.

MS: Australia's chances of qualifying for the next World Cup?

SD: I hope it happens. It will be the saving of the game. The key is not on the pitch but the quality of our administrators to manipulate the automatic qualification for Oceania. If I was in Asia or Europe I would be fighting against it. The scores of 30-0 in the last qualification actually does us harm. But it's up to the lobbyists to do their part. Now SA have appointed Alan Vessey as CEO, they have a better chance, he's a great administrator and knows what he's doing.

MS: New laws outlawing youngsters to go overseas at a young age, you agree or Disagree? (i.e. can't sign for a club until they turn 18)

SD: In principle the rule is correct to stop young Africans and Brazilians being dumped on the streets by unscrupulous agents. The application to Australia is crazy however, as it is certainly hindering the development of young players. English clubs look after players and also if we are to be sceptical, often African 16 year olds are coming here with false passports - though some of them are often about 24 anyway! In simple terms any Aussie under 18 cannot come here to play unless his family comes to work here. That's a hell of a risk to take, and quite sad as Aussie players are well

thought of in England.

MS: Any good youngsters in your side, which you think will make the first team squad in years to come?

SD: Yes in particular a 17 year old keeper Adam Ogden and a midfielder John Docker, but look out for Kieran Richardson at Manchester United and Aidrian Lennon at Leeds United, they are outstanding players. Plus any of the present Arsenal youth team are top class players. Plus Wayne Rooney of Everton played against us last season and is now in the first team. As we are a smaller club, our young players get a chance here. I had five of my under 17's play reserve team football and two of the under 18's in the first team squad. The first team management Terry Yorath and Willie Donachie work with our players and don't care how old they are as long as they are good enough. If you are at Wednesday you have a chance to make it. The system from Youth to first team is well organised.

MS: Any chance of Steve Darby returning to Australia in coaching a National League side?

SD: Like I said right time right place and you never say no in Football. I still think Australia is the best place in the world to live, plus I'll always be a Sydney Olympic fan. I was delighted for Gary Phillips and the club when they did so well this year. The fans are true football fans and deserve success.

MS: Cheers Steve, thanks for taking the time out and we at ABSW wish you all the best in your future endeavours at the club.

SD: Pleasure Mark, anytime - Cheers!



Steve Darby: Sheffield Wednesday's Youth coach.

money coming into the game we are starting to see more middle class and educated players coming through as parents see it as a viable alternative to University. As being National Development Officer for the old ASF in 1990-95, it's pleasing to see the programs that I initiated like Rooball and state

Shoulder who set up the AIS youth system.

MS: Any chance of you heading further up the grades at Wednesday?

SD: The reality of football all over the world - is right time, right place. Who



WOLLONGONG NEWS

By Otto Bader

Wolves Youth Development — Active Youth Grade Coach Eddie TESORO is moving around Illawarra Soccer circles to communicate with up and coming local talent. On a regular basis Eddie has watched local Premier League games in recent months, talking to coaches and players. He's conducting a public relation exercise to offer trials with the aim to reach the top grade National soccer level.

During the preparations for the coming soccer competition several youth players have been in training. Some others are still playing at present in the U/17's competition, coming to an end this month. Delighted with his progress, the Youth Development officer can look upon a number of his former charges who have been promoted to Ron Corry's first grade squad. Eddie TESORO has nominated his Youth Team, comprising of 17 players, six from the U/17's, one promising youngster only 15 years old. Most of his players come from the Illawarra soccer clubs, most through the Wolves juniors, only two squad members are from outside the area.

The Youth coach can consider a job well done if he can watch one or two of his boys become regulars in first grade. The Youth Train-on squad for the coming season is JUSTIN PASFIELD (KEEPER), BEN JARMAN, WADE SCHERINI, MATTHEWS WERAKSO, NATHAN ABLE, DAVID BOSCOCCURO, BEN BARTLETT, ANDREW SMITH, LEIGHAL DELLIS, RICKY BERTAKIS, MATTHEW GORDON, MICHAEL BLAIN, LANCE BARRIE, DESI GERALDI, MICHAEL ROBINSON, SHANE AMNUNG, JUSTIN POTTER.

These youngsters are the future of the Wolves NSL team in years to come. Strong performances can assure coming first grade contracts to potential Wolves players in the making.

Wolves Play Locals — Several friendly matches are being organised as trials against Illawarra Premier League teams. This gives "Hopefuls" at the NSL club the opportunity to prove their ability to aim for a contract and on the other side provides Premier League players with the chance to show their values. In general, both sides gain valuable match practice, results are not indicative.

Games are intended for Tuesday nights under floodlights against Wollongong Olympic, West Illawarra, Port Kembla, Balgownie, Cringila at their club's home grounds, kick-off 6.30pm.

Illawarra Soccer News — The first semi-final last Wednesday at Judy Masters Oval saw in the Youth Cup University playing in the Conference League, defeating Kemblawarra

2:0 and thus reaching the Cup Final competing for Prize money and Trophy. They will face either Balgownie or Coniston Lions, both due to meet tonight, Wednesday 20/8/02 at Judy Masters Oval.

In the seniors BERT BAMPTON CUP Kemblawarra won 3:2 over Port Kembla in a very close contest with the lead changing and the final goals for the winner scored late in the game. Kemblawarra is now most likely to meet Coniston Lions in the final on Sunday 15th September who meet Conference League side Shellharbour City tonight with the lower team playing for pride and credence only — at Judy Masters Oval also kick-off 8pm.

Shellharbour City coach Barney King — a past top Illawarra striker himself — and his boys are thrilled to have made it to the Cup semi-finals out of 16 Conference League teams and now face 'red-hot-favourite' Premier League side Coniston Lions, a side in 2nd place on the competition table. Although very much the underdogs, all Shellharbour players are eager and looking forward to play against the higher graded opposition. They are not expected to win and have nothing to lose, hoping to compete well against the top Premier League team. For the Conference League club it represents the impossible challenge, which comes along only once in a while.

Juniors at WIN Stadium — Replacing last season's ROO-BALL competition at WIN Stadium, a new system will be organised and supervised by the Illawarra Junior Soccer Association, acknowledged by the Wolves.

At every home game the youngsters will compete in a modified U/10 soccer competition and at present more than 10 clubs have entered with additional ones expected soon.

The Junior Association is seeking a match day sponsor for the season ready to support the young players to the amount of \$2000. In return the tournament will be named after the benefactor, mentioning the name in the match program of the Wolves, flash the sponsor's name on the electronic score board plus reserve seating in the grand stand.

Players eligible are those who played last year's U/9's or younger competition.

Weekend Soccer Results — ICU Premier League Round 19
Kiama 2 Cringila 2 — very valuable point for Kiama to save them from relegation threat at the moment.

Picton Rangers 1 Kemblawarra 2 — the visitors staying on top with the win.

Port Kembla 3 Balgownie Rangers 2 — important for Port to stay close to the top, disappointing for Balgownie, more threatened with relegation.

Coniston Lions 1 Bulli 0 — narrow win but enough for Coniston to stay second, while Bulli

is in trouble.

West Illawarra 2 Tarrawanna 2 — could be enough for Tarrawanna to fend off relegation threat, West stay safe in the middle.

Wollongong Olympic 2 Lysaght 3 — not the expected result, slows down Olympic's progress.

ICU Conference League Round 20

South Coast United 1 Albion Park WE 2 — very close but good enough for the Park boys to stay well on top, no danger from anybody.

Shellharbour City 2 Berkeley 0 — impressive win for City to stay in top half.

Barbarians — now new name 0 Dapto 8

Northern United 5 Fernhill 3

Highlands United 0 Helensburgh 0

Warilla Wanderers 2 Woonona 0 University 4 Ruse 0

Shoalhaven City v Bellambi Sunday game at Nowra.

WOLVES DEFEAT SPIRIT IN FIRST TRIAL MATCH

The Wolves played Northern Spirit on Sunday morning in a trial game at Cringila Lion's ground, winning convincingly.

Even though it was a friendly trial clash, the Wolves new squad looked fit an impressive, using a number of last year's successful youth graders together with the remaining regulars from last season plus some local Premier League players, trying to join the NSL club.

Observed among the small number of supporters was an international figure from the Australian Rugby League world — former international Cliff Lyons, past star with Manly Rugby League club, this time watching and enjoying his son playing soccer with the Wolves taking the field for the whole 90 minutes. Young Shane Lyons impressed and scored a goal and made quite a remarkable debut.

Goals came from Liam Austin for the home team in the 6th minute and Shane Lyons in the 44th with Northern Spirit scoring right on half-time with the Wolves adding another two goals in the second half through Stuart Young in the 48th and Sean Babic in the 60th minute.

Unfortunately Buddy Farah had to come off early after suffering a knee injury after a strong tackle which resulted in the Northern Spirit player being sent-off.

Coach Ron Corry must have been satisfied with the fitness and effort invested by all players fielded. Northern Spirit scored a consolation goal but did not really pressured the Wolves at any time, they looked rather timid.

Even though it was only a trial, valuable assessments of players seeking contracts could be judged by the coaching staff. Another trial is being set-up for next Sunday morning at Crehan park, Cringila.

During the week the Wolves will be playing night training matches against local Premier League sides.

Football Kingz on the rise with new partnership

The newly formed partnership between UNITEC and the Football Kingz signifies a shift in the operation of the Kingz, and an opportunity to rebuild the culture of the club.

The partnership sees the Football Kingz base their entire operation at UNITEC Institute of Technology in Carrington Road, Mt Albert, locating the players and management together for the first time in the club's history.

The partnership is a holistic one, with education opportunities for current players, an academy for the players of the future, and an opportunity for the Football Kingz to be part of the 20,000-strong campus community at UNITEC.

For Kingz Director Chris Turner the new partnership provides an opportunity to rebuild the club. "The 2001 season was a very difficult one," said Turner, "and it made us focus on building a football club and getting the infrastructure right."

"In the past, we have been very much a one-team club. We are now looking to build the infrastructure of the club over the next 2-3 years, and the partnership with UNITEC allows us to do this."

"From our perspective, the partnership means, firstly, practical opportunities such as the facilities, fields and gymnasiums at UNITEC. Secondly, it gives our players educational opportunities. Thirdly, it allows us to set up structures such as the youth academy in behind our first team. The other key aspect is that we want to build our culture, and we feel that being part of the UNITEC communi-

ty will play a part in that." UNITEC will provide the Kingz with office facilities, a floodlit international-size training field with seating, and use of the Recreation Centre on campus — the Eta O'Ryan's



Stadium.

The UNITEC School of Sport will also provide the Kingz with access to their specialist staff expertise, including six accredited sports science deliverers and specialists in biomechanics, nutrition, sports psychology, exercise physiology, exercise prescription, and strengthening and conditioning.

The Kingz will be part of a large international community at UNITEC, and many of the 18,000 students on campus are passionate about soccer. "I'd like to think that some of the students within UNITEC could start up a big supporters club," said Nikki Turner, "and feel some ownership towards the team."

Another feature of the partnership is the creation of the UNITEC Football Kingz Youth Development Program. This program will become part of UNITEC's Certificate in Athlete Development.

The UNITEC Football Kingz Youth Development Program will become a new

Certificate in Athlete Development course, with its first intake of students next February.

The program will select young footballers of promise from around the country who'll participate in the Football Kingz training and activities, as well as the educational components of the course.

Chris Turner said he was very excited about the UNITEC Football Kingz Youth Development Program. "The partnership with UNITEC allows us to offer New Zealand's football players of the future a far greater opportunity than we would ever have been able to offer them by ourselves."

"This program will give footballers who are considering a professional career the experience and background they'll need, so that when they finish they have a running head start on other players, or even potentially a contract here or overseas."

"If they aren't going to make it on the international sporting stage, then the program allows them to consider a career in areas sports management, coaching or physical education."

"The program also allows us to build beyond a one-team club, bringing the next range of players under our first team into an academy structure, and developing them."

The Kingz will be promoting the UNITEC Football Kingz Youth Development Program when they embark on a road trip around New Zealand in early September, which involves pre-season games against Northern Spirit, and a Nigerian Youth team.

ACT WRAP-UP

By Graham Cooke

Monaro left it until the 11th hour of the ACT Premiership to show their true quality — and in the end it was too late.

Their 2-2 draw with Canberra Deakin was not enough to ease them through, but there were times during this enthralling contest when it seemed they may do the unthinkable, and toss the previously unbeaten minor premier out of the competition at this preliminary stage.

With so much hanging on the outcome there were moments of tension. It came close to boiling over five minutes before half time when Deakin's David Arranz put an elbow into the face of Carl Pideski as they were challenging for the ball, but referee Chris Blain handled himself admirably, and cooled the situation before showing Arranz the inevitable red card.

Deakin coach Gabriel Wilk said afterwards he had no arguments with the decision.

It meant that Deakin had to play more than half the game with 10 men, and their position at that point was by no means secure. They had taken the game to Monaro and leading scorer Zvonka Usljebrka had already missed two clear cut chances when Steve Lee chipped the ball over the head of advancing goalkeeper Jimmy Carr and into the net in the fourth minute.

With just over half-an-hour gone Danny Macor tried a similar tactic on Angelo Konstantinou who has an often nerve-racking habit of straying far from his goal. The lob left Konstantinou stranded, defender Paul Ivanic got a foot to the ball, sending it up against the underside of the crossbar and out, but Blain ruled it had already crossed the line.

Worse was to come for Deakin in the second half. Struggling under the burden of 10 men they slipped behind when Goran Veljanovski shot past Konstantinou into the roof of the net

from the edge of the penalty area.

With Belconnen United beating Weston Creek Royals a loss would have ended Deakin's season, but a penalty saved them, Usljebrka shooting home from the spot after Ivanic had been brought down.

There were chances for both sides in the closing stages. Konstantinou saved at close range from Macor and Carr did well to block a shot by Lee at the near post following a corner.

Monaro coach Tony Brennan said that having Deakin reduced to 10 men was not such an advantage. "Deakin are the kind of side which pulls out the stops and plays harder," he said.

"We were out there trying to score three when we should have been holding on to our 2-1 lead. It's a shame because we had a few experienced players in there who should have known better."

Brennan said he had coached his last game in the Premiership. "That's it for me," he said. "I'll go back to helping the juniors."

"That's not because we didn't win anything. Really I'm pleased how we recovered from that

miserable spell in mid-season. It was a fine display today against a top quality opponent and I'm happy to go out on it."

Deakin qualified as the second team in Group A after Belconnen swamped Weston Creek Royals 5-0. A hat-trick from Clinton Larfield and goals from Michael Katz and an own goal saw them through.

Canberra Olympic retained a 100 per cent record in the finals by beating Capital City Suns 2-1 in a scrappy contest played on a bumpy pitch at Woden Park Oval. Trent Flanigan, Marcelo Fernandez and Elija Salloum were Olympic's scorers, Tony Kokac scored for a sadly under-strength Suns.

In the remaining match Gungahlin Juventus went through by beating Tuggeranong United 2-1. Martin Lazzari gave Juventus the lead from a corner; an own goal by John Glass brought an equaliser before Steve Lazzari got on the end of a cross to complete the scoring.

The game marked a triumphant return for Steve Lazzari after weeks of suffering from a mystery injury he had thought was a hamstring.

Coach Ian Heywood said the real reason was a slightly dislocated hip that had put pressure on the hamstring. "He's had things fixed with some manipulation and now it looks as if he's on the mend," the coach said.

The finals series takes a break on Sunday for the final of the Federation Cup between Deakin and Juventus at Hawker Oval (2pm).

ACT PREMIERSHIP FINALS SERIES

Group A									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		
Belconnen United	3	2	1	0	8	1	7		
Canberra Deakin	3	1	2	0	10	4	5		
Monaro	3	1	1	1	6	5	4		
Weston Creek Royals	3	0	0	3	2	16	0		
Group B									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		
Canberra Olympic	3	3	0	0	10	2	9		
Gungahlin Juventus	3	2	0	1	9	7	6		
Tuggeranong United	3	0	1	2	3	7	1		
Capital City Suns	3	0	1	2	5	11	1		

Semi-finals, September 1: Belconnen United v Gungahlin Juventus, Canberra Olympic v Canberra Deakin.

NSL CHAMPS VISIT MENAI HAWKS JUNIORS

On 30 July last, Menai Hawks Junior Soccer Club were treated to a fine exhibition on what it really means to train — with gusto and purpose — when National Champs, the Olympic Sharks, were put through their paces in front of a keenly interested crowd of spectators.

Even though it was a cold evening, several hundred Club members — mainly from the junior ranks — donned their jackets and bean-



Shown here is keen Sharks supporter Liana Danaskos from the 7As with Jeromy Harris.

ies, dragged their parents from the telly and warm houses, and braved the cold to see what it takes to become a professional soccer player.

The Sharks put on an impressive exhibition, if not gruelling, the highlight of which was goal shooting, and watching the Sharks expert goalkeeper make many a diving save.

Many gasps could be heard from Menai Hawks young players at the power these professional players have when shooting for goal, and the accuracy and speed of their ball passing — they seemed to have eyes in the back of their heads and knew exactly where one another were on the pitch.

Many coaches on the sideline watched and took mental notes for use on their teams, particularly as semis, finals and grand finals are on their way.

Menai Hawks Junior Soccer Club are grateful to the NSL Olympic Sharks for taking the time to come to Buckle Reserve and show us their style and skill. Visits from players of this professional standard to junior soccer clubs encourages up and coming young players, and shows great comradery within the game itself.



The Olympic Sharks squad shown mobbed by adoring Sharks fans.



ITALIAN SERIE A NEWS



Inter's Moratti denies Real offer

Inter Milan president Massimo Moratti went on Italian television last Wednesday night to deny reports that he had received a 48 million euro offer from Real Madrid for Brazilian striker Ronaldo.

"They are writing in Spain that Real Madrid have come up with a 48m euro offer, but I haven't received anything at all," said the Inter boss.

"There's been no contact and therefore I think whatever was written isn't true."

Moratti was tackled on the long running saga by Italian television in Lisbon where the Serie A side where playing Sporting Lisbon in a Champions League qualifier.

He disclosed that he had been talking to Ronaldo earlier by phone.

"The Brazilian's ready to come back. He's due here in a week. We've got a very good relationship between us, and we'll see what's

going to happen."

He did however concede that he was aware of Ronaldo's desire to move - but pointed out that he was still under contract.

His comments followed a report in Spanish daily Marca that both Inter and Real were conducting secret talks for the striker's transfer and that all that was missing now was an agreement between Moratti and his Real counterpart Florentino Perez "to do a deal".

They hinted that Real were prepared to stump up 48m euros for Ronaldo.



Massimo Moratti: Inter Milan President.

Capello's AS Roma bidding for Egyptian star

A week after notching a memorable 2-1 win over Italian giants AS Rome in a friendly gala match held in Cairo, local club Al-Ahly are negotiating a genuine offer from the Roman side to lure the services of their international star Ibrahim Saeed.

Saeed, 23, a versatile central defender who failed trials with English Premiership side Everton early this month, opened the scoring for the local Reds after 21 minutes against visitors AS Rome, also made a faultless outing during which he completely contained Argentinian prolific marksman Gabriel Batistuta throughout the 90 minutes.

London-based Saudi daily Asharq Al-Awsat quoted AS Rome manager Fabio Capello as saying "we are in the imminent need of a player in his mould in our defensive line, and should talks between both

sides end positively, I assume the player will be an instant hit for us."

Al-Ahly marketing manager Adly Al-Qaiyi, who is leading the negotiations with AS Rome vice-president in Cairo, told Al-Hayat paper on Wednesday "we have fixed a \$2 million price-tag for the player, despite the genuine need of his services in the upcoming continental challenges."

"The Roman side are looking very interested in the player," added Al-Qaiyi.



Fabio Capello: AS Roma coach.

Ronaldo's friend says he has had enough of Inter

World Cup winner Ronaldo has had enough of his Italian first division club Inter Milan, according to a report in Swiss weekly newspaper *dimanche.ch*.

The Brazilian star's future has been the subject of intense speculation with media reports claiming Real Madrid are planning a bid to prise the player away from the San Siro.

"I have a lot to give but I have had enough of Inter. I don't want to be there any more," Ronaldo said according to his friend

Nilson Locatelli quoted in the *dimanche.ch* report.

Locatelli said Ronaldo has already made his decision to start a new chapter in his life without Inter.

"There are too many things which have not been cleared up for me to stay at the club. Cuper (Inter coach) would have to leave," Ronaldo is further reported as saying to his Swiss-based friend.

Locatelli added Ronaldo wanted to join Real Madrid with his friends Roberto Carlos, Figo and Zinedine Zidane.

Ancelotti predicts success for AC Milan this season

"This year we'll do big things: we can win everything, the scudetto and the Champions League. AC Milan are up there with many champions as the strongest team".

These were the words of Carlo Ancelotti on the eve of their Champions League preliminary against Slovan Liberec.

With their dream addition, Alessandro Nesta definitely out of the picture, the AC Milan coach is completely concentrated on the club's first important aim of season, a Champions League meeting in which the Milan side simply cannot afford to fail.

Ancelotti knows the importance of that match, but at the same time he also knows the

strengths of his team and his stars such as Rivaldo, Shevchenko, Inzaghi and Rui Costa: "We have extraordinary offensive potential and we'll have to use it in a good way."

The first test will be the Champions League preliminary in the San Siro against Slovan Liberec, and I'm sure that we'll overcome it easily also because we don't want to have any limits this season.

I'm sure that this squad will give me plenty of satisfaction", Ancelotti said, also adding how, referring to last season they've made important additions. But a clear declaration underlined his ideas: "Spectacle is important, but what counts first is winning".



DI LIVIO VOWS TO STAY AT FIORENTINA

The fall from World Cup to Serie C/2 is drastic but Angelo di Livio has insisted he would make it as he pledged to stay at Fiorentina.

The veteran midfielder became the first big-name player to commit himself to La Viola who were relegated from Serie A last season and then banished to C/2 due to their financial situation.

The newly re-born club, under new management and with Pietro Vierchowod installed as coach, are bidding to make a swift return to the top two divisions.

Di Livio has signed a new two-year contract, but is thought to be earning no more than £90,000 per year.

The 36-year-old was the oldest member of Italy's World Cup squad and made two appearances as substitute.

Meanwhile, Enrico Chiesa is reportedly on the brink of joining Juventus on a free transfer from Fiorentina, although there was no official confirmation from last season's champions.



Angelo Di Livio wants to stay at Fiorentina.

Trezeguet out for a month

Bad news has hit Juventus just before the start of the new season. French forward, David Trezeguet is suffering from a problem on his right knee which will oblige him to be off the pitch for about a month.

The problem emerged today when Trezeguet restarted having training after a few days off, and it's possible that it's the old injury he suffered on July the 31st, during the Trieste trophy. He'll have to undergo physiotherapy for about twenty days.



David Trezeguet: Juventus star will be out for at least a month with a knee injury.

Zidane sale boosts Juventus profit

Italian soccer champions Juventus posted a sharp rise in annual profit last Tuesday thanks to a windfall from the record sale of French international Zinedine Zidane to Real Madrid.

Juventus said net profit for the year ended June rose 6.2 percent year-on-year to 6.1 million euros, largely due to a six-fold increase in profit from player trading.

Juventus sold France's 1998 World Cup and Euro 2000 winner Zidane to Spanish club Real Madrid in July 2001 for \$66 million in the costliest ever soccer signing.

At 1415 GMT, shares in Juventus, which is controlled by Ili holding company of the powerful Agnelli family, were trading up 0.8 percent at 2.02 euros - a far-cry from its flotation price last year of 3.7 euros.

Italian soccer, long regarded as the most glamorous in Europe, is facing a cash crisis after a number of clubs overspent on player wages and transfers. The problems have been compounded as cash-strapped TV companies try to reduce the amount they spend on broadcast rights.

Revenues for the year stood at 175.3 million euros against 171.1 million euros a year ago, but at only 33.2 million euros for the fourth quarter against 48.4 million euros this time last year.

Juventus, Italy's most successful ever soccer team, posted a fourth-quarter net loss to 16.2 million

euros as the season ended earlier than usual ahead of the World Cup.

"The World Cup is to blame. During the time we played 11 games last year, we only played five this year. And we didn't just lose ticket sales, we lost broadcast and television fees during that time as well," a Juventus spokesman said.

Over the year, fees from broadcast rights rose eight percent to 104 million euros.

Juventus raised 164 million euros in an initial public offering last December, saying it planned to capitalise on its brand and build itself as a leisure company to try to create a more stable revenue stream than many soccer clubs have.

In mid-June, as a key part of its business plan, Juventus signed a draft deal for a 99-year lease on the Delle Alpi stadium in its home town of Turin for 24 million euros. The final lease contract is due to be drawn up by October 31.



Zinedine Zidane: Real Madrid star.

REF MORENO LAUNCHES ITALIAN ATTACK

Not content with becoming the most unpopular man in Italy after the Azzurri's elimination from the World Cup, Ecuadorian referee Byron Moreno has now claimed that the Italian people remind him of the fascist leader Benito Mussolini.

Moreno has hit back at his critics in startling fashion after being widely castigated for his performance in Italy's 2-1 defeat by South Korea in the second round.

"The Italians have the same attitude as Mussolini," he claimed on Chilean television.

"It is not the first time that the Italians have shown themselves to be such bad losers. In 1938, when Mussolini was in power, they were told that they would not be able to come home unless they won the

World Cup in France.

"And now their philosophy is more or less the same. All they care about is winning, and they don't mind how they do it."

Moreno's latest comments are sure to produce further indignation in a country still smarting from their team's premature exit in Japan and Korea this summer.

Many Italians still blame Moreno for that defeat after he controversially sent playmaker Francesco Totti off for diving and awarded South Korea a penalty following a skirmish in the penalty area.

Italy also saw an extra-time goal by Damiano Tommasi, which would have seen them into the quarter-finals, incorrectly ruled out for offside.

Mussolini's tenure as Prime Minister of Italy lasted from 1922 to 1943.

It was he who ensured that Italy entered World War Two on the side of Nazi Germany.



Ecuadorian referee Byron Moreno has heavily criticized the Italian people.

Torino's 1943 Italian Cup up for auction

The Italian Cup won in 1943 by the "big" Torino will be sold during an auction that will be held at Christie's in London on September 24th.

It's an important memory in Italian soccer and it will put on auction valued at between 52,000 and 68,000 Euros. The trophy, which is only theoretically property of the club, was award-

ed to a player with financial difficulties in the 70's by former Torino president Pianelli. From that moment onwards the trophy entered the soccer collector's circuit.



Italian Serie A

Home Away

Round 1 **Round 18**
1.9.2002 **26.1.2003**

.....	Milan	v	Udinese	.....
.....	Roma	v	Como	.....
.....	Parma	v	Brescia	.....
.....	Reggina	v	Lazio	.....
.....	Torino	v	Bologna	.....
.....	Atalanta	v	Modena	.....
.....	Empoli	v	Inter	.....

Home Away

Round 2 **Round 19**
15.9.2002 **2.2.2003**

.....	Bologna	v	Roma	.....
.....	Brescia	v	Piacenza	.....
.....	Como	v	Empoli	.....
.....	Inter	v	Torino	.....
.....	Juventus	v	Atalanta	.....
.....	Lazio	v	Chievo	.....
.....	Modena	v	Milan	.....
.....	Perugia	v	Reggina	.....
.....	Udinese	v	Parma	.....

Home Away

Round 3 **Round 20**
22.9.2002 **9.2.2003**

.....	Milan	v	Perugia	.....
.....	Roma	v	Modena	.....
.....	Atalanta	v	Bologna	.....
.....	Chievo	v	Brescia	.....
.....	Empoli	v	Juventus	.....
.....	Parma	v	Como	.....
.....	Piacenza	v	Udinese	.....
.....	Reggina	v	Inter	.....
.....	Torino	v	Lazio	.....

Home Away

Round 7 **Round 24**
27.10.2002 **9.3.2003**

.....	Brescia	v	Como	.....
.....	Chievo	v	Milan	.....
.....	Inter	v	Bologna	.....
.....	Juventus	v	Udinese	.....
.....	Lazio	v	Roma	.....
.....	Parma	v	Atalanta	.....
.....	Perugia	v	Modena	.....
.....	Piacenza	v	Empoli	.....
.....	Reggina	v	Torino	.....

Home Away

Round 8 **Round 25**
3.11.2002 **16.3.2003**

.....	Milan	v	Reggina	.....
.....	Roma	v	Perugia	.....
.....	Atalanta	v	Piacenza	.....
.....	Como	v	Inter	.....
.....	Empoli	v	Lazio	.....
.....	Modena	v	Juventus	.....
.....	Parma	v	Chievo	.....
.....	Torino	v	Brescia	.....
.....	Udinese	v	Bologna	.....

Home Away

Round 9 **Round 26**
10.11.2002 **23.3.2003**

.....	Bologna	v	Como	.....
.....	Brescia	v	Empoli	.....
.....	Chievo	v	Atalanta	.....
.....	Inter	v	Udinese	.....
.....	Juventus	v	Milan	.....
.....	Lazio	v	Parma	.....
.....	Perugia	v	Torino	.....
.....	Piacenza	v	Roma	.....
.....	Reggina	v	Modena	.....

Home Away

Round 13 **Round 30**
8.12.2002 **27.4.2003**

.....	Milan	v	Roma	.....
.....	Brescia	v	Juventus	.....
.....	Chievo	v	Bologna	.....
.....	Lazio	v	Inter	.....
.....	Modena	v	Como	.....
.....	Parma	v	Reggina	.....
.....	Perugia	v	Piacenza	.....
.....	Torino	v	Atalanta	.....
.....	Udinese	v	Empoli	.....

Home Away

Round 14 **Round 31**
15.12.2002 **24.5.2003**

.....	Roma	v	Reggina	.....
.....	Bologna	v	Parma	.....
.....	Brescia	v	Perugia	.....
.....	Como	v	Milan	.....
.....	Empoli	v	Modena	.....
.....	Inter	v	Atalanta	.....
.....	Juventus	v	Lazio	.....
.....	Piacenza	v	Chievo	.....
.....	Udinese	v	Torino	.....

Home Away

Round 15 **Round 32**
22.12.2002 **11.5.2003**

.....	Milan	v	Brescia	.....
.....	Atalanta	v	Empoli	.....
.....	Chievo	v	Como	.....
.....	Lazio	v	Bologna	.....
.....	Modena	v	Udinese
.....	Parma	v	Inter
.....	Perugia	v	Juventus
.....	Reggina	v	Piacenza
.....	Torino	v	Roma

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This Season's Italian Serie A

MARCONI

— 2002-2003

AUSTRALIAN & BRITISH
SOCCER
WEEKLY

Home		Away
Round 4		
29.9.2002		
..... Bologna	v	Piacenza
..... Brescia	v	Roma
..... Como	v	Reggina
..... Inter	v	Chievo
..... Juventus	v	Parma
..... Lazio	v	Milan
..... Modena	v	Torino
..... Perugia	v	Empoli
..... Udinese	v	Atalanta
Round 21		
16.2.2003		

Home		Away
Round 5		
6.10.2002		
..... Milan	v	Torino
..... Roma	v	Udinese
..... Atalanta	v	Lazio
..... Chievo	v	Modena
..... Empoli	v	Bologna
..... Juventus	v	Como
..... Parma	v	Perugia
..... Piacenza	v	Inter
..... Reggina	v	Brescia
Round 22		
23.2.2003		

Home		Away
Round 6		
20.10.2002		
..... Atalanta	v	Milan
..... Bologna	v	Brescia
..... Como	v	Piacenza
..... Empoli	v	Roma
..... Inter	v	Juventus
..... Lazio	v	Perugia
..... Modena	v	Parma
..... Torino	v	Chievo
..... Udinese	v	Reggina
Round 23		
2.3.2003		

Home		Away
Round 10		
17.11.2002		
..... Milan	v	Parma
..... Roma	v	Inter
..... Atalanta	v	Brescia
..... Bologna	v	Perugia
..... Como	v	Lazio
..... Empoli	v	Reggina
..... Modena	v	Piacenza
..... Torino	v	Juventus
..... Udinese	v	Chievo
Round 27		
6.4.2003		

Home		Away
Round 11		
24.11.2002		
..... Milan	v	Inter
..... Brescia	v	Udinese
..... Chievo	v	Empoli
..... Juventus	v	Bologna
..... Lazio	v	Modena
..... Parma	v	Roma
..... Perugia	v	Como
..... Piacenza	v	Torino
..... Reggina	v	Atalanta
Round 28		
13.4.2003		

Home		Away
Round 12		
1.12.2002		
..... Roma	v	Juventus
..... Atalanta	v	Perugia
..... Bologna	v	Modena
..... Como	v	Udinese
..... Empoli	v	Milan
..... Inter	v	Brescia
..... Piacenza	v	Lazio
..... Reggina	v	Chievo
..... Torino	v	Parma
Round 29		
19.4.2003		

Home		Away
Round 16		
12.12.2002		
..... Roma	v	Chievo
..... Bologna	v	Milan
..... Brescia	v	Lazio
..... Como	v	Atalanta
..... Empoli	v	Torino
..... Inter	v	Modena
..... Juventus	v	Reggina
..... Piacenza	v	Parma
..... Udinese	v	Perugia
Round 33		
18.5.2003		

Home		Away
Round 17		
19.1.2003		
..... Milan	v	Piacenza
..... Atalanta	v	Roma
..... Chievo	v	Juventus
..... Lazio	v	Udinese
..... Modena	v	Brescia
..... Parma	v	Empoli
..... Perugia	v	Inter
..... Reggina	v	Bologna
..... Torino	v	Como
Round 34		
25.5.2003		



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Serie A Transfers and Rumours

 <p>ATALANTA</p> <p>COACH: Giovanni Vavassori</p> <p>PURCHASED: Dundjerski (Como), Gautieri (Piacenza), Javorcic (Treviso), Liolidis (Aris Saloniki), Minelli (Lumezzane), Rinaldi (Chievo), Santos (Ribeirao Preto)</p> <p>OBJECTIVES: Margiotta (Vicenza), Vryzas (Perugia), Vugrinec (Lecce), Wallner (Rapid Vienna)</p> <p>TRADED: Colombo (Sampdoria), Dundjerski (Treviso), Falsini (Parma), Orlandini (Milan), Saudati (Empoli)</p> <p>TARGETED: Rinaldi (Brescia), Zauri (Juventus)</p>	 <p>BOLOGNA</p> <p>COACH: Francesco Guidolin</p> <p>PURCHASED: Ardito (Como), L. Colucci (Verona), Padalino (Inter), Pansera (Albinoleffe), Paramatti (Juventus)</p> <p>OBJECTIVES: Amaral, Amoroso (Fiorentina), Baccin, Zanchi (Juventus), Barone, Matuzalem, Torrisi, Falsini (Parma), Conticchio (Lecce), Marasco (Venezia), Salvetti (Verona), Tedesco (Perugia)</p> <p>TRADED: Brighi (Juventus), Tarantino, Pecchia, Padalino (Como), Fresi (Juventus), Firmani, Runstroem (Chievo), Zauli (Vicenza)</p> <p>TARGETED: Wome (Empoli, Fulham)</p>	 <p>BRESCIA</p> <p>COACH: Carlo Mazzone</p> <p>PURCHASED: Appiah (Parma), Dainelli (Verona), Martinez (Saprisa), Micillo (Cosenza), Sereni (Ipswich Town)</p> <p>OBJECTIVES: Bettarini (Venezia), Seric, Italiano (Verona), Fontana (Ascoli), Rinaldi (Atalanta), Sibaya (Yomo Cosmos), Sussi (Genoa), Tomic (Roma), Torrisi (Parma)</p> <p>TRADED: Agliardi (Cosenza), Bonera (Parma), Binotto (Inter), Castellazzi (Reggina), Guardiola (Roma), Mangone (Piacenza), Sussi (Genoa)</p> <p>TARGETED: Baggio (Chievo), Giunti (Cosenza), Tare (Chievo, Palermo)</p>	 <p>CHIEVO VERONA</p> <p>COACH: Luigi Del Neri</p> <p>PURCHASED: De Franceschi (Venezia), Firmani (Bologna), Magnanelli (Gubbio), Mensah (Genoa), Morante (Treviso), Nalis (Bastia), Passoni (Siena), Pellissier (Spal), Runstroem (Bologna), Veronese (Modena), Vincenti (Carrarese)</p> <p>OBJECTIVES: Arellano (Monterrey), Andersson (Venezia), Conticchio (Lecce), Iaquina (Udinese), Maniero (Palermo), M. Rossi (Fiorentina), Tare (Brescia)</p> <p>TRADED: Barone (Parma), Cleiton (Mantova), Corradi (Inter), Rinaldi (Atalanta)</p> <p>TARGETED: Eriberto (Lazio), Manfredini (Lazio)</p>
 <p>COMO</p> <p>COACH: Loris Dominissini</p> <p>PURCHASED: Belingheri (Alzano), Benin (Fiorentina), Binotto (Brescia), Bjelanovic (Varteks), Carbone (Middlesbrough), Chianese (Vicenza), De Cesari (Spezia), Ferron (Verona), Guzzo (Fiorentina), Juarez (Lecce), Lazetic (Fenerbahce), Padalino (Inter), Pecchia (Bologna), Serna (Medellin), Tarantino (Bologna), Van Gastel (Ternana), Zahalka (Carrarese)</p> <p>OBJECTIVES: Cois (Fiorentina), Rossi (Fiorentina), Rossitto (Fiorentina)</p> <p>TRADED: Ardito (Bologna), Bega (Triestina), Del Chiaro (Lucchese), Dundjerski (Atalanta), Femiano (Lucchese), Gallo (Treviso), Olivares (Lucchese), Pavone (Messina), Pedone (Sampdoria), Taldo (Modena), Terri (Ternana), Zanini (Triestina)</p> <p>TARGETED: -</p>	 <p>EMPOLI</p> <p>COACH: Silvio Baldini</p> <p>PURCHASED: Agostini (Fiorentina), Amauri (Piacenza), Busce' (Lumezzane), Cassano (Fiorentina), Grieco (Parma), Lucchini (Ternana), Saudati (Atalanta), Vannucchi (Venezia)</p> <p>OBJECTIVES: Brioschi (Bologna), Godeas (Messina), Massaro (Fiorentina), Mirosevic (U. Catolica), Mutarelli (Genoa), M. Rossi (Fiorentina), Spinesi (Bari), Storari (Ancona), Taddei (Fiorentina), Wome (Bologna), Yllana (Brescia)</p> <p>TRADED: Bonetto (Ascoli), Bresciano (Parma), Fusco (Catania), Maccarone (Middlesbrough), Razzak (St. Etienne)</p> <p>TARGETED: -</p>	 <p>LAZIO</p> <p>COACH: Roberto Mancini</p> <p>PURCHASED: Baronio (Fiorentina), Oddo (Verona), Sorin (Cruzeiro)</p> <p>OBJECTIVES: Ambrosetti (Chelsea), Asta (Free), Chiesa (Fiorentina), Emre (Inter), Eriberto (Chievo), Manfredini (Chievo), Muzzi (Udinese), Veron (Man Utd.)</p> <p>TRADED: Comazzi (Verona), De La Pena (Porto), Mendieta (Barcelona), Minieri (Martina), Ola (L'Aquila), Poborski (Sparta Prague)</p> <p>TARGETED: Nesta (Milan, Inter, Juventus), Dino Baggio (Chelsea), Favalli (Juventus), Pesaresi (Chievo), Stam (Milan)</p>	 <p>A.C. MILAN</p> <p>COACH: Carlo Ancelotti</p> <p>PURCHASED: Borriello (Treviso), Dalla Bona (Chelsea), Dida (Corinthians), Domoraud (Monaco), Orlandini (Atalanta), Rivaldo (Barcelona), Seedorf (Inter), Simic (Inter), Tomasson (Feyenoord)</p> <p>OBJECTIVES: Nesta (Lazio), Stam (Lazio)</p> <p>TRADED: Albertini (Atletico Madrid), Aliyu (Siena), Daino (Ancona), Donadel (Lecce), Donati (Parma), Javi Moreno (Atletico Madrid), Jose Mari (Atletico Madrid), Kutuzov (Sporting Lisbon), Sarr (Galatasaray), Umit (Inter)</p> <p>TARGETED: Serginho (Inter), Roque Jr. (Real Madrid, Leeds Utd.)</p>
 <p>MODENA</p> <p>COACH: Gianni De Biasi</p> <p>PURCHASED: Albino (Ancona), Taldo (Como), Campedelli (Salernitana), Russo (Viterbese), Sculli (Crotone), Taldo (Como), Zamboni (Udinese), Zamperini (Portsmouth)</p> <p>OBJECTIVES: Cangini (Spezia), Conticchio (Lecce), Passoni (Chievo), Salvetti (Verona)</p> <p>TRADED: Domizzi (Sampdoria), Fantini (Venezia), Grieco (Catania), Rabito (Sampdoria), Tarana (Ancona), Veronese (Chievo), Zironelli (Thiene)</p> <p>TARGETED: -</p>	 <p>PARMA</p> <p>COACH: Cesare Prandelli</p> <p>PURCHASED: Adriano (Inter), Alex (Palmeiras), Barone (Chievo), Bonera (Brescia), Bresciano (Empoli), P. Cannavaro (Verona), Gresko (Inter), Gilardino (Verona), Donati (Milan), Falsini (Atalanta), Matuzalem (Piacenza), Oyola (River Plate), Poggi (Piacenza), Siviglia (Roma), Torrisi (Marseille)</p> <p>OBJECTIVES: Mutu (Verona), Negro (Lazio), Pierini (Fiorentina)</p> <p>TRADED: Almeyda (Inter), Appiah (Brescia), Boghossian (Espanyol), Bolano (Sampdoria), Cannavaro (Inter), Djedou (Fulham), Grieco (Empoli), Gurenko (Piacenza), Maini (Ancona), Milosevic (Espanyol), Montano (Piacenza), Sartor (Roma), Sensini (Udinese), Sukur (Released)</p> <p>TARGETED: Mboma (Chievo)</p>	 <p>PERUGIA</p> <p>COACH: Serse Cosmi</p> <p>PURCHASED: Amoroso (Juventus), Criniti (Sambenedettese), De Martis (Catania), Del Vecchio (Sambenedettese), Kalac (Roda Kerkrade), Kargbo (Rwd Molenbeek), La Vista (Fermana), Loumboutis (Aris Salonico), Miccoli (Juventus), Radi (Real Montecchio), Viali (Venezia)</p> <p>OBJECTIVES: Baronio (Lazio), Nanni (Velez Sarsfield), Ogasawara (Kashima Antlers), Rezaei (Ishafan), Stoica (Anderlecht), Vinicius (Sao Caetano)</p> <p>TRADED: Baiocco (Juventus), Blasi (Juventus), Bazzani (Sampdoria), Cordoba (Boca Juniors), Dellas (Roma), Monaco (Catania), Paris (Racing Avellaneda), Rezaei (Ishafan)</p> <p>TARGETED: Nesta (Lazio), Vryzas (Atalanta, West Ham)</p>	 <p>PIACENZA</p> <p>COACH: Andrea Agostinelli</p> <p>PURCHASED: Gurenko (Parma), Mangone (Brescia), Marcolin (Sampdoria), Maresca (Juventus), Montano (Parma), Obolo (Velez Sarsfield), Riccio (Ancona), Stella (Pescara)</p> <p>OBJECTIVES: Barzagli (Ascoli), Poggi (Parma), M. Rossi (Fiorentina), M. Vieri (Juventus)</p> <p>TRADED: Amauri (Empoli), Cacia (Ternana), Gautieri (Atalanta), Liverani (Pavia), Lucarelli (Palermo), Matuzalem (Parma), Mora (Bari), Poggi (Parma), Sacchetti (Sampdoria), Sommesse (Vicenza), Volpi (Sampdoria)</p> <p>TARGETED: Statuto (Napoli)</p>
 <p>REGGINA</p> <p>COACH: Bortolo Mutti</p> <p>PURCHASED: Castellazzi (Brescia), Cirillo (Lecce), Mendil (Cosenza), Nakamura (Yokohama), Paredes (Porto)</p> <p>OBJECTIVES: Di Donato (Palermo), Fusco (Salernitana), Gargo (Udinese), Luiso (Sampdoria), Nanni (Velez Sarsfield), Pierini (Fiorentina), Postiga (Porto), Toretto (Lecce), P. Zanetti (Vicenza), Zapata (River Plate)</p> <p>TRADED: Baldini (Napoli), Casale (Cosenza), La Canna (Cosenza), Zoppetti (Lecce)</p> <p>TARGETED: -</p>	 <p>ROMA</p> <p>COACH: Fabio Capello</p> <p>PURCHASED: Bombardini (Palermo), Cejas (Siena), Dellas (Perugia), Guardiola (Brescia), Sartor (Parma)</p> <p>OBJECTIVES: Chivu (Ajax), Davids (Juventus), Kuffour (Bayern Munich)</p> <p>TRADED: Assuncao (Bets Sevilla), Cejas (Ascoli), Pepe (Teramo), Siviglia (Parma), Zago (Besiktas)</p> <p>TARGETED: Guigou (Espanyol), Tomic (Bologna, Brescia)</p>	 <p>TORINO</p> <p>COACH: Giancarlo Camolese</p> <p>PURCHASED: Balzaretti (Siena), Diawara (Cosenza), Mandelli (Siena), Osmanowski (Bordeaux), Pinga (Siena), Scarlato (Udinese), Sommesse (Vicenza)</p> <p>OBJECTIVES: Amoroso (Fiorentina), Bastida (Lugano), Brienza (Palermo), Cois (Fiorentina), G. Colucci (Verona), Conticchio (Lecce), A. Lucarelli (Piacenza), Melis (Verona), Pereyra (River Plate), Sorondo (Inter)</p> <p>TRADED: Asta, Brambilla, Cauet, Diawara, Maspero (Contract Expired)</p> <p>TARGETED: Lucarelli (Udinese)</p>	 <p>UDINESE</p> <p>COACH: Luciano Spalletti</p> <p>PURCHASED: Beneforti (Bastia), Gemiti (Eintracht Frankfurt), Genaux (Standard Liege), Jancker (Bayern Munich), Jankulowski (Napoli), Lopez (Napoli), Magro (Grasshoppers), Sensini (Parma)</p> <p>OBJECTIVES: Firmani (Chievo), Rossitto (Fiorentina), Palumba (Fiorentina), Tomic (Roma)</p> <p>TRADED: D'Imporzano (Ancona), Esposito (Cagliari), Helguera (Alaves), Molinari (Alto Adige), Parks (Ascoli), Scarlato (Torino), Sosa (Boca Juniors), Turci (Sampdoria), Zamboni (Modena)</p> <p>TARGETED: Jorgensen (Inter), Gargo (Borussia Dortmund)</p>
 <p>INTER MILAN</p> <p>COACH: Hector Cuper</p> <p>PURCHASED: Adani (Fiorentina), Almeyda (Parma), Brncic (Ancona), Cannavaro (Parma), Coco (Barcelona), Corradi (Chievo), G. amarra (AEK Athens), Morfeo (Fiorentina), Umit (Milan)</p> <p>OBJECTIVES: Amoroso (Fiorentina), Asta (Free), Favalli (Lazio), Kily Gonzalez (Valencia), Jorgensen (Udinese), Lamouchi (Parma), Serginho (Milan)</p> <p>TRADED: Georgatos (AEK Athens), Gresko (Parma), Padalino (Bologna), Seedorf (Milan), Simic (Milan), Umit (Galatasaray), Robbiati (Ancona)</p> <p>TARGETED: Ronaldo (Real Madrid)</p>	 <p>Christian Vieri: Inter Milan's deadly striker.</p>	 <p>JUVENTUS</p> <p>COACH: Marcello Lippi</p> <p>PURCHASED: Baccin (Napoli), Baiocco (Perugia), Blasi (Perugia), Brighi (Bologna), Camoranesi (Verona), Chimenti (Lecce), Fresi (Bologna), Gastaldello (Padova), Moretti (Fiorentina), M. Vieri (Ancona), Zanchi (Verona)</p> <p>OBJECTIVES: Adebayor (Metz), Cavenaghi (River Plate), Dacourt (Leeds), Favalli (Lazio), Nesta (Lazio), Vanoli (Fiorentina), Zauri (Atalanta)</p> <p>TRADED: Amoroso (Perugia), Carini (Arsenal), Frara (Bologna), Maresca (Piacenza), Miccoli (Perugia), M. Vieri (Verona), Paramatti (Bologna)</p> <p>TARGETED: Davids (Roma), Zalayeta (Empoli)</p>	 <p>Alessandro Del Piero: Juventus striker looking to win another Scudetto this year.</p>

NEW SOUTH WALES FOOTBALL

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NSW SUPER LEAGUE ELIMINATION SEMI-FINAL by Greg Stock



FRASER PARK3
(Kindness Agwu 34', Jack Sobczyk 62', Tallan Martin 66')

MACARTHUR RAMS0
at Fraser Park, Sydenham

By Greg Stock

Fraser Park coach John Sentas blew a huge sigh of relief after watching his team of hospital casualties take apart a disappointing Macarthur Rams in the Elimination Semi-Final.

With seven of his key players all nursing injuries, the Jets could have and should have been the team on the receiving end, but in stark contrast to their 3-2 loss to the Rams last week, it was the Jets who did all the talking.

"It was a great performance from the players" said Sentas after the match, "and I am not just saying that because we won, but for the character of the team. There were some boys out there today who are carrying really painful injuries and shouldn't have even stripped, but they gave everything today and it showed."

Starting the game with his usual 4-4-2 system, Sentas



Fraser Park substitute Kindness Agwu opened the scoring with his first touch of the ball.

Fraser Park Jets

v

Macarthur Rams

MACARTHUR



RAMS



Chris Giannangelo caught in mid-air following a successful tip-over.

was forced to alter his formation just after the half hour mark when stopper George Zabetakis was forced from the field with hamstring trouble. Reverting to a more attacking 3-5-2 and with Nigerian teenager Kindness Agwu partnering Derek Poimer up front, the Jets slipped straight into fourth gear and took apart the Rams.

With his first touch of the game, Kindness received a beautiful through ball from Jake Flower to deftly lob Macarthur goalkeeper Chad Taylor. It was a superb strike from a player that looks to have come of age as a Super

League striker after looking a little shaky earlier in the season.

Even with the loss of Derek Poimer just after the hour mark, the Jets didn't flinch and ran out the second half with as much spirit as the first. Jack Sobczyk took full toll of a handling error by Taylor in the 62nd minute as he completely misjudged a corner from Glenn Sprod, only to see Sobczyk slam the ball home at the back post. Substitute Tallan Martin getting the sides third goal four minutes later, as he streamed onto a Kindness flick pass to successfully

go one on one with Taylor.

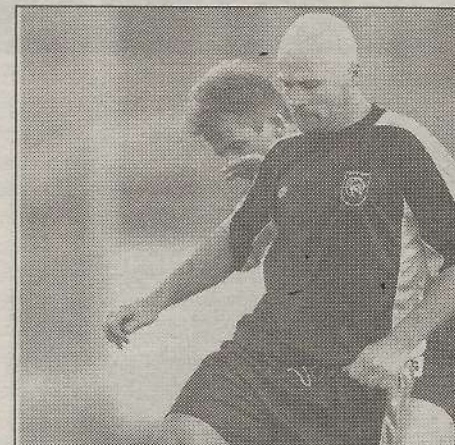
With Chris Giannangelo performing some goalkeeping heroics between the sticks, every move the Rams made seemed ineffective. One of the form goalkeepers of the competition, Giannangelo looks to be destined for higher honours as he acrobatically denied three consecutive shots in the space of a minute to keep a well deserved clean sheet. While his performance was memorable his midfield colleagues were all class.

Ex-NSL stalwarts, Ante Moric and Glenn Sprod relished the wide open spaces and they were arguably the best players on the park. Their ability to find space in the midfield was a joy to watch as they capitalised on some weak marking by their opponents. Without the services of Eric Williams and Stewart Van Bentum, Macarthur did not have any answers and looked a shadow of the side that had won last week 3-2.

But a week is a long time in football, and with his team of walking wounded, Sentas had the final say. "We did not have a bad player out there today. Everybody gave their all and considering the hardship some of them were under, this match is definitely our best win of the season thus far."

Sunday's preliminary semi-final between Manly Warringah and Hadjuk Wanderers at Cromer Park was postponed due to a water-logged pitch. Overnight thunderstorm on the peninsula gave the referees little opinion but to abandon the days proceeding half way through Under 19 fixtures.

These matches will be played on Tuesday 20th August (U19 Manly Warringah vs Dulwich Hill at Fraser Park, kick-off 7.30pm) and Wednesday 21st August (U21 Hadjuk Wanderers vs Ryde City, kick-off 6.45pm and First Grade Manly Warringah Dolphins vs Hadjuk Wanderers, kick-off 8.30pm at Lambert Park, Leichhardt).



Martin Bourke solid in the midfield for Macarthur

FRASER PARK: Chris Giannangelo, George Zabetakis (Kindness Agwu 32'), Jack Sobczyk, Mathew Percy, Daniel Borg, Jake Flower, Adam Snyder, Derek Poimer (Tallan Martin 61'), Glenn Sprod, Ante Moric, Philip Gregorace; Coach: John Sentas.

MACARTHUR RAMS: Chad Taylor, Ben Green, Martin Bourke, John Kelso, Kory Babington, Sasha Telisman (David Maude 69'), Robert Angievski, Gary Seymour, David Reid, Anthony Judge, Leigh Gunn; Coach: Hugh McCrory.

CAUTIONS: Fraser Park: Moric 70' Percy 72' Macarthur Rams: Seymour 85'

REFEREE: Boyd McGregor

ASSISTANT REFEREES: Greg Leverton and Alex Spiroski

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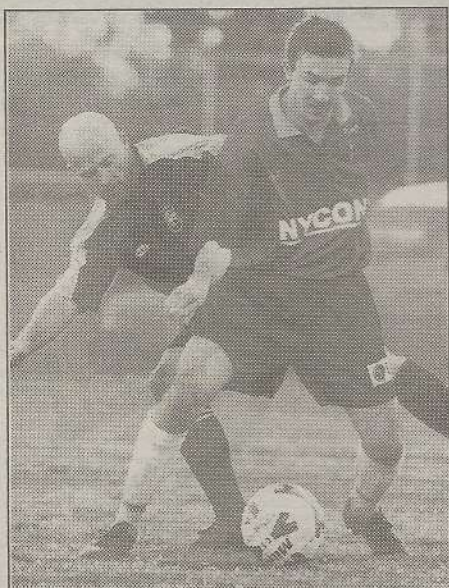
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NSW Super League



ACTION FROM FRASER PARK V MACARTHUR RAMS by Carlos Furtado



Adam Snyder shields well from Martin Bourke.



Ante Moric about to unleash a cross.



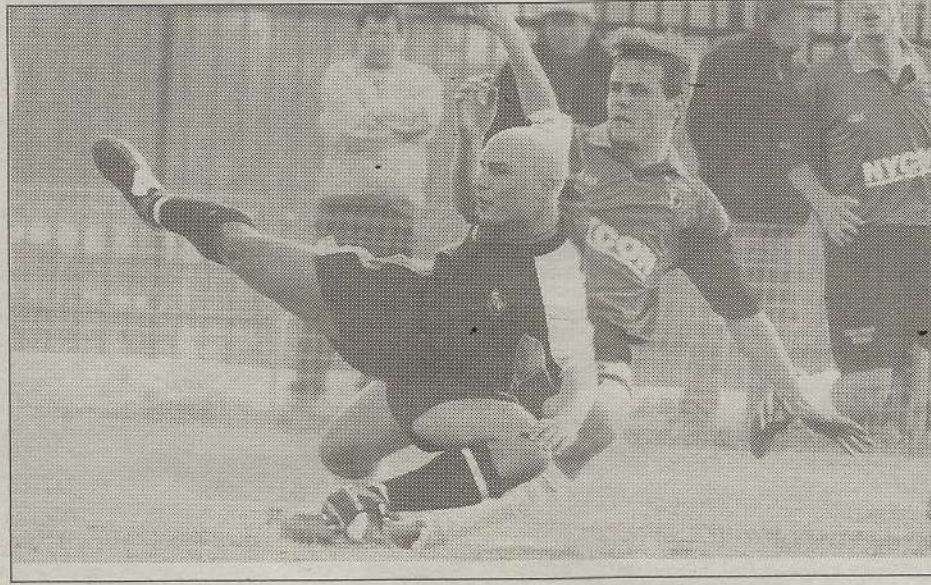
George Zabetakis out jumps Leigh Gunn.



Leigh Gunn fails to get head on ball as Chris Giannangelo punches clear.



Ben Green looking for a option.



Robbie Angievski and Jack Sobczyk challenge hard.



Chad Taylor misjudges Glenn Sprods cross.

ACTION FROM ROCKDALE CITY SUNS V PARRAMATTA POWER by Carlos Furtado



NEW SOUTH WALES
FOOTBALL

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NSW Super League



FINALS SERIES PREVIEW

By Greg Stock



After last weekend's Preliminary Semi-Final washout, it will certainly be a busy week for players and fans alike, with Manly-Warringah and Hajduk Wanderers being forced to back up for two games in a week.

Regardless of their result this week, the winner will be playing off with Rockdale City Suns for a spot in the Grand-Final on Sunday, the loser will meet Fraser Park at their home ground on Sunday in a winner take all contest. It won't be easy for either team and much will depend on the result of Wednesday's game to assess both sides Semi-Final chances.

One side which will be sitting back enjoying the match and counting the days till Sunday will be ROCKDALE CITY SUNS. After a quiet week on the training paddock last weekend, coach Mile Todorovski and the boys will be interested spectators at the Preliminary Semi-Final, confident they have the mettle to beat the winner.

"Our build up towards the Major Semi-Final has been excellent" said Technical Director of Coaching Bill Pilovski. "The success of being admitted to the Summer Premier League plus the Club Championship and Minor Premiership victories has everyone buzzing for a big effort this weekend."

While Manly and Hajduk were rained out at Cromer Park, Rockdale enjoyed a friendly match with NSL club side Parramatta Power in front of 400 or so fans at the Ilinden Sports Centre. The match played under perfect skies in Sydney's south ended in a 2-1 win for the Suns with goals to Denis Alilovic and Leo Carle, both from the penalty spot. The Power replied with a late goal, with Bill Pilovski

confident his side look to be in tip top shape for their first outing in the Semi-Finals.

"We played our full strength side and we looked sharp" said

to regroup a side that has nine of its first grade players all under an injury cloud. "We will have a light work out on Tuesday" said Sentas. "The club is putting on a bar-b-que

can't see anything to say why not. It all comes down to their mental approach in the leadup to this weekend's match. If Bill and Mile can get that right then they can go all the way."

Stewart Porter (Sydney University) - "Yes, they are the strongest side in the league with the most number of wins. It's always difficult coming back after a week off, but they have the squad with plenty of depth and that will stand them in good stead.

Paul Carter (ex AC United and former Socceroo) - "You'd be mad if you didn't they could. The big plus for Rockdale is their defence. They can score goals sure, but their big asset is their defence, and in big games like semi-finals, it can be the difference."

Ross Anton (Stanmore Hawks) - "They can definitely win it. The Suns have shown tremendous stability all season and have won the games that matter. When a side can have a talent like Leo Carle coming off the bench, you know they have the depth to be the top side."

QUESTION - CAN FRASER PARK MAKE IT ALL THE WAY TO THE GRAND-FINAL?

Tony Dunn (Ryde City) - "Definitely, but a lot will depend if John Sentas can regroup a side desattered by injuries. Glenn Sprod is the key and if he stays fit and healthy they are a big chance."

Stewart Porter (Sydney University) - "They have every chance, providing they play every match with the same vigour and determination they showed against Macarthur."

Paul Carter (ex-AC United and former Socceroo) - "Definitely, on their day they are an awesome side. For mine, it will be an interesting match up against Tommy McCulloch's Hajduk Wanderers as they are one side that can really trouble them, but if they can play like they did against Macarthur, they are every chance."

Ross Anton (Stanmore Hawks) - "It will be a Rockdale v Fraser Park Grand-Final for mine. John Sentas has shown he can take sides from fifth spot to the Grand Final when he did it with Stanmore a few years back. He is one of the best tacticians in the business, and has a side capable of matching any other in the league."

QUESTION - WHO IS THE PLAYER/S MOST LIKELY TO BE THE ONES TO WATCH THIS WEEKEND?

Tony Dunn (Ryde City) - "Keep an eye out for Denis Alilovic from Rockdale. When he wants to turn it on, he can be brilliant, exciting and most importantly, score the big goals."



Fraser Park captain, Glenn Sprod, one of the best midfielders in the league.

liant, exciting and most importantly, score the big goals."

Stewart Porter (Sydney University) - "Hamilton Thorp for Manly and Spase Najdoski for Rockdale. Both are players who can go missing for eighty minutes, but when they have to, both are capable of scoring the big goals."

Paul Carter (AC United and former Socceroo) - "I am a big Glenn Sprod fan and he makes a wealth of difference to Fraser Park."

Steve Berry is another to watch for his ability to move his side around the park and support Hamilton Thorp up front."

Ross Anton (Stanmore Hawks) - "Leo Carle for Rockdale is just inspirational. Hamilton Thorp for Manly is going to be tough for any defence to try and hold, while Glenn Sprod proved against Macarthur last week that he is one of the best midfielders in the league."



Hard working Hajduk midfielder JJ Ellul.



Leo Carle can be inspirational for Rockdale City Suns.

Pilovski. "We made a few tactical half-time changes and gave some of our squad players some game time but for team morale the result was a good one and we showed we can mix it with better quality teams." Another important factor for Rockdale is the fact that there are no injury problems and every player is fit and raring to go.

The other side which has a week to ponder their next move before next Saturday's Minor Semi-Final is FRASER PARK. Head coach John Sentas faces the task of trying

for the players at training, so we'll take it easy and just see where each player is, before we have our usual Thursday session."

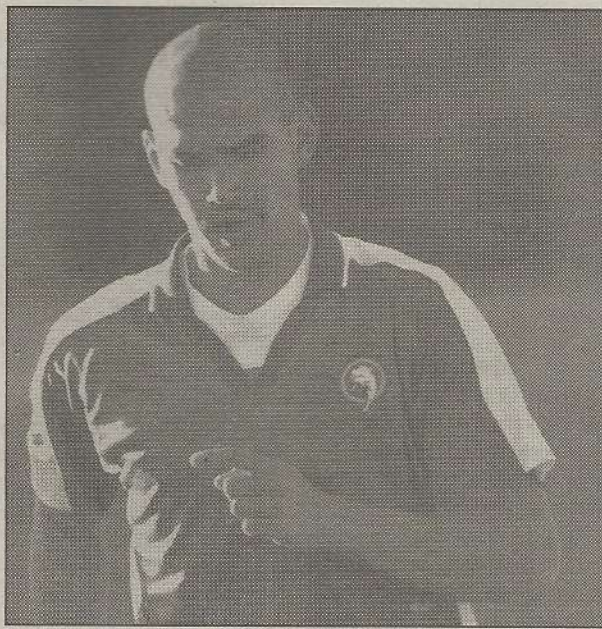
The three players causing the most doubt are Daniel Borg, who was taken to hospital after last Saturday's game complaining of knee soreness, George Zabetakis who is still troubled by his right hamstring and was replaced after just half an hour against the Rams and Tony Faria who has calf and hamstring problems. Emmanuel Papageorgiou wasn't required last week and the week off has done his shoulder injury the world of good, while Derek Poirer looks to be over the worst of his back problems.

"We're travelling okay" said Sentas. "I wouldn't say we are close to one hundred percent, but the side has a real spirit about it and everytime we have some problems, we seemingly overcome them. If we play with the same passion and commitment we did last weekend, I have no troubles in saying it doesn't matter who we play, we will win next Saturday."

In the leadup to next weekend's Major and Minor Semi-Finals, we posed three questions to four of the league's coaches and asked their responses.

QUESTION - CAN ROCKDALE WIN THE COMPETITION?

Tony Dunn (Ryde City) - "I



Hamilton Thorp capable of scoring the big goals when it counts.



NSW Super League



Final Series Scoreboard

First Grade

ELIMINATION SEMI-FINAL

FRASER PARK3 MACARTHUR RAMS0
(Kindness Agwu 34', Jack Sobczyk 62', Tallan Martin 66')

PRELIMINARY SEMI-FINAL

MANLY WARRINGAH DOLPHINS VS HADJUK WANDERERS (POSTPONED)

UNDER 21

ELIMINATION SEMI-FINAL

AC UNITED3 MACARTHUR RAMS0

PRELIMINARY SEMI-FINAL

HADJUK WANDERERS VS RYDE CITY (POSTPONED)

UNDER 19

ELIMINATION SEMI-FINAL

RYDE CITY2 STANMORE HAWKS1

PRELIMINARY SEMI-FINAL

MANLY WARRINGAH DOLPHINS VS DULWICH HILL
(ABANDONED AT HALF-TIME DUE TO WEATHER)

FIRST GRADE

Rescheduled Preliminary Semi-Final 21/8/02
Manly Warringah Dolphins v Hadjuk Wanderers
Lambert Park 8.30pm

Minor Semi-Final Saturday 24/8/02
Loser PSF v Fraser Park
Venue and Time to be confirmed

Major Semi-Final Sunday 25/8/02
Rockdale City Suns v Winner PSF
Rockdale Illinden Sport Centre Time

Preliminary Final Sunday 1/9/02
Loser Major SF v Winner Minor Semi Final
Venue and Time to be confirmed

Grand Final Sunday 8/9/02
Winner Major SF v Winner PF
Melita Stadium 3.00pm

UNDER 21

Rescheduled Preliminary Semi-Final 21/8/02
Hadjuk Wanderers v Ryde City
Lambert Park 6.45pm

Minor Semi-Final Saturday 24/8/02
Loser PSF v AC United
Venue and Time to be confirmed

Major Semi-Final Sunday 25/8/02
Fraser Park v Winner PSF
Rockdale Illinden Sport Centre Time

Preliminary Final Sunday 1/9/02
Loser Major SF v Winner Minor Semi Final
Venue and Time to be confirmed

Grand Final Sunday 8/9/02
Winner Major SF v Winner PF
Melita Stadium 12.15pm

UNDER 19

Rescheduled Preliminary Semi-Final 20/8/02
Manly Warringah Dolphins v Dulwich Hill
Fraser Park 7.30pm

Minor Semi-Final Saturday 24/8/02
Loser PSF v Ryde City
Venue and Time to be confirmed

Major Semi-Final Sunday 25/8/02
Rockdale City Suns v Winner PSF
Rockdale Illinden Sport Centre Time

Preliminary Final Sunday 1/9/02
Loser Major SF v Winner Minor Semi Final
Venue and Time to be confirmed

Grand Final Sunday 8/9/02
Winner Major SF v Winner PF
Melita Stadium 10.15am



J-P's Coaching Tips

Hi Everyone,

Two weeks ago, Kelly Cross and myself were invited by Soccer Australia and the South Australian Soccer Federation to attend a two-day workshop for High Performance coaches in Adelaide.

Personally it was a great opportunity to meet all the other coaching and development managers from the other states and swap stories.

It was two full days of insightful information from all the presenters who included, Frank Farina (Socceroo & Olyroo's Coach), Ange Postecoglou (Joey's Coach), Adrian Santrac (Matilda's Coach), Jim Selby (National Coaching & Development Manager), Steve O'Connor (AIS Scholarship Coach), Martyn Crook (South Australian Institute of Sport) and Jim Fraser (National Goalkeeper Coach).

We were also privileged to have former Ajax Amsterdam and Dutch international, Danny Blind,

conduct a practical training session on attacking with the South Australian Institute of Sport players.

We also had the opportunity to watch Vasco de Gama (Brazil)

work on Attack/Defence and finishing, the quality of which was superb.

Not to be outdone, Frank, Ange, Steve and Jim also conducted sessions that looked at

Attack/Defence and other modern training methods to assist in the development of the youth & senior goalkeeper's technique and game awareness.

Kelly and I will be conducting a

joint seminar to pass on all the information that we learned from this seminar in the near future.

Now onto this week's tip. The skills we will focus on are the "Step-Over" and the "Reverse Step-Over".

These two skills will allow the player to get around an opponent without passing the ball. The advantages of getting around an opponent is that it creates a 2 v 1 situation in areas around the ball carrier.

Step-Over

While Dribbling the ball, step over it with your right foot, then with your left foot, push the ball to your right with the inside of your foot.

It is important that your foot is both in front of the ball and close to the ground when you're stepping over the ball so the opposition cannot see it.

Repeat using the opposite feet and push the ball in the opposite direction.

Reverse Step-Over

While dribbling the ball, step over the ball in a clockwise direction with your right foot, making sure that the outside of the foot is closest to the ball. Then push the ball to your left with the outside of your left foot.

It is important that your foot is in front of the ball and close to the ground when stepping over the ball so that the opposition cannot see the ball.

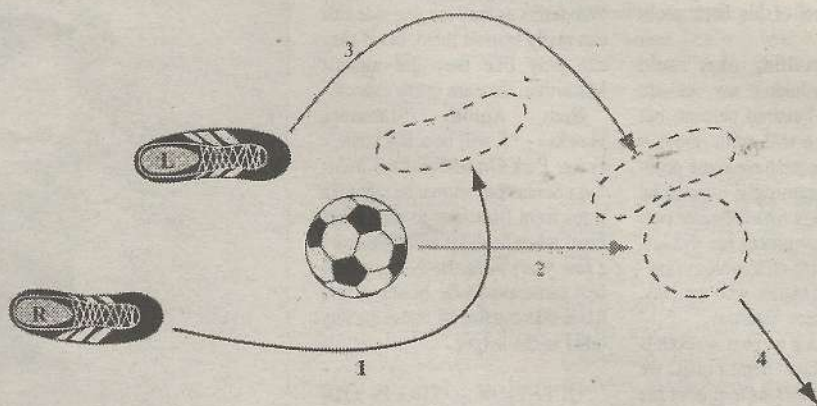
Repeat using the opposite feet and push the ball in the opposite direction.

That's all for this week.

For more information about these skills or if you would like to purchase the Soccer Select book, e-mail (jp@soccernsw.com.au) or phone (02) 9629 1800.

Until next week, happy coaching.

Jean-Paul de Marigny
Coaching and Development
Manager,
NSW Soccer Federation



STEP-OVER



NSW Divisions 1 & 2



DIVISION ONE ROUND-UP RD 23

WESTERN RAGE opened the 2002 Division One Finals Series with a 2-1 extra time victory over **HURSTVILLE ZSC** at the Calabria Sports Ground.

It was a typically hard-fought and keenly contested Finals match with multiple cautions and two red cards handed out.

The first of these, the dismissal of the otherwise impressive Rage midfielder Ryan Noble for a rash lunge from behind on Clint Mayberry, should in theory have changed the course of the match. Behind 1-0 at the time, and down a player with more than half of the match remaining, the loss of a player should have, when combined with the absence of the injured Sal Zullo and the withdrawal of the injured Osvaldo El Ali early in the second half, just about seen Hurstville home.

However Rage through their classy midfielders Christian Lima and Luciano Berbis, continued to dominate in the centre of the park and ultimately it was their industry and endeavour that saw the home side prevail.

Hurstville started the game with a bang when promising 17-year-old striker Luke Glavas scored yet another vital goal for his side. A loose ball in midfield was seized upon by Tony Alilovic and swept forward for Glavas to latch onto, and finish in a one-on-one past goalkeeper Barry Smith.

Both teams had good chances to score before the interval with Clinton Green for Rage getting through on goal, but when forced wide by Hurstville custodian Robbie Mustapic, the in-form striker was unable to fully wrap his foot around the shot from a tight angle.

The striking partnership of Glavas and Steve Zoric combined late in the half for Hurstville, with Glavas, headed only forced away by some desperate defending on the goal line.

Rage started strongly in the second half and they only got stronger as the game wore on, indeed it was hard to believe they were playing with ten men.

The introduction of the veteran striker Bruno Beddoni on the hour mark, adding an extra dimension to the forward line.

For all this though it was Hurstville who came closed to scoring Zoric hitting the post on 70 minutes after some good work down the right from Ante Majetic. Had the ball gone in, the game would have been all but over, but within ten minutes not only had Rage equalised but had very much taken the ascendancy.

Rage finally making the breakthrough when Luciano Berbis fired into the roof of the net from the edge of the box penalty area with the ball taking a slight, but possibly significant deflection en-route to goal. Lima doing some wonderful work when he latched onto a ball floated over the defence before holding the ball up long enough for his midfield partner to line up his shot.

The first period of extra time saw Rage continue their territorial dominance and when Dean Culina was dismissed for a last-man foul on Beddoni, Hurstville has lost their numerical advantage.

Finally two minutes into the second period of extra time, Rage got their winner. As the ball was pushed forward from midfield, Green was able to get goal-side of his marker and was left unchallenged to slot past the keeper. The golden goal, thus helping his team into an encounter with Wanderers Cedars next weekend.

In the Elimination Semi-Final at Cook Park, **MOUNT PRITCHARD** had to work hard before finally overpowering a gallant **BATHURST** side to the tune of four goals to one.

Bathurst started much the stronger and Andrew Loxley had his

side a goal to the good within ten minutes when he scored with a magnificent strike from well outside the box. The visitors made a number of further incursions deep into opposition territory as the Mounties struggled early to keep up with what was a fast-paced game.

However on the half-hour mark, a moments lapse of concentration cost Bathurst dearly. A quickly taken free-kick was chipped forward by Joe Moric before being adroitly converted by Michael Severino, who was allowed to volley home unchallenged.

The goal seemed to change the course of the game with Mt Pritchard now having much better of the exchanges.

The Mounties were rewarded early in the second half when Luke Flynn scored in similar circumstances as Loxley had done for Bathurst. Midfielder Flynn letting fly from 30 yards with the ball sailing into the top right corner.

Ten minutes later the game was all but over when Moric conjured a goal out of nothing as he forced his way past the last defender and finished past an exposed Jarrod Bone.

The scoring was completed when substitute Greg Lowe expertly whipped in a cross from the right and Luke Tomich made his glancing near-post look easy.

Despite the lopsided scoreline the young Bathurst side pushed their opponents right to the end with defender David Baillie impressing throughout.

Next week fixtures: Minor Semi-Final Saturday 24th August Hurstville ZSC v Mt Pritchard at Ernie Smith Reserve 2.30pm, Major Semi-Final Sunday 25th August Wanderers v Western Rage at Fogolar Furlan Sport Ground 2.30pm.

DIVISION TWO ROUND-UP RD 23

The top two teams of Division Two, **NEPEAN ASSOCIATION** and **LIVERPOOL BOSSY**, met in Sunday's major semi-final at Nineveh Field. Nepean failed in their attempt to overcome Liverpool for the Premiership after a dramatic loss to Schofields last week, and approached this game with a keener desire to prove their credentials as the best team of the division.

By the final whistle, Nepean had comfortably disposed of an out of sorts Liverpool Bossy by 4-2, to be the first team into the Grand Final.

Liverpool had not played a competitive fixture in two weeks after a bye last week, and started the match with such a lack of commitment or intensity that an embarrassing rout was on the cards. As it was, Nepean were three goals to the good within 15 minutes.

The first came after only three minutes when Nepean hard man Paul Richardson waltzed past a flat footed Fekret Bilasac and penetrated deep into the Liverpool 18-yard box. With time to spare, he did well to pick out an unmarked Mark Hoenselaars, who slammed home the chance from close range.

Just five minutes later, Bossy keeper Anel Kurtovic's slowness to react was punished as he allowed Sameer Ali to meet a harmless looping corner kick with an unchallenged header in the six-yard box. No doubt pleasantly surprised with the free header instead of a whack on the ear, Ali made no mistake and doubled his team's lead.

Things deteriorated still further for Bossy when Nepean's busy Ercan Topal, whose first half just behind the two strikers was terrific for its enterprise and endeavour, found Mark Hoenselaars wide on the right.

Easily brushing aside a half-hearted challenge from Cam Ozdemir, Hoenselaars cut inside and slotted

home his second and Nepean's third. With little meaningful resistance anywhere on the park, the situation was indeed dire for Bossy. When frontman Sead Kacinac volleyed over the bar from close range, it was clear that any Liverpool fightback would depend on his ability to convert an opportunity.

By the interval, Kacinac had done just that, reducing the deficit to a single goal with two deadly finishes after splendid long balls from strike partner Mladen Damjanovic. In between times however, Nepean might have helped themselves to several more, Bossy keeper Kurtovic redeeming himself by twice saving at the feet of Matthew Borg.

While their first half recovery was admirable, there was nothing to suggest that Liverpool would be able to do enough to seriously trouble the technically superior Nepean side over the remainder of the game.

Into the second half, Nepean's dominance only increased, with the absent Bossy midfield placing its defence under tremendous pressure by allowing Nepean's Borg, Hoenselaars and Topal the time and space to run at pace on their retreating opponents. Borg finally got on the scoresheet midway into the half when had time to cue up a simple 8-yard strike of a loose ball, and did so with clinical accuracy.

The only blemish on a pleasing performance by Nepean was the late dismissal of Karim Ballout for a second yellow card, meaning he will miss a Grand Final appearance.

CSI SCHOFIELDS ended their season in heartbreaking fashion when they lost on penalties against **GREYSTANES** with the scoreline locked at 2-2 after 120 minutes of action.

A game that featured four goals and twelve cautions opened with a goal after just six minutes. A disput-

ed penalty was converted by Greystanes sharpshooter Anthony La Grazia but only after former Socceroo keeper Mike Gibson got a hand to the ball before it bobbed over the line.

It was only ten minutes before parity was restored and predictably it was the league's leading scorer in Shane Cevenini that produced the goal. Cevenini curling a free kick from well outside the box into the top left hand corner of the goal.

Schofields took the lead on the stroke of half-time when a cross from the right was perfectly flighted and Kamahl Gabara's firm header was too hot to handle for Greystanes custodian David Apps.

After the interval La Grazia scored his second after the Schofields defence were guilty of failing to clear their lines.

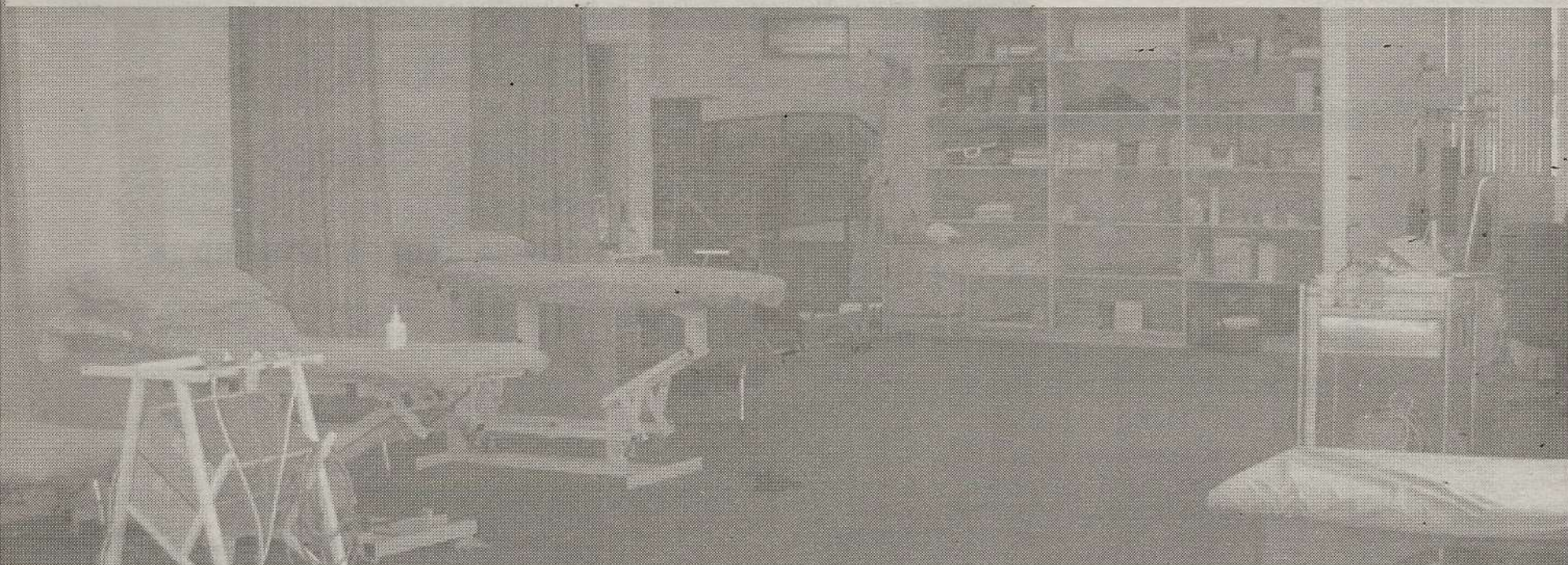
La Grazia looked like he might get the winner with five minutes left on the clock but he was brought down by Gibson outside the box with the veteran keeper perhaps a shade lucky to stay on the field.

The extra time period was somewhat dour with neither team able to create much in the way of serious attempts on goal and so it was to be the lottery of the penalty shootout that was to decide which team would progress. Apps was the hero for Greystanes when he saved Schofields fourth penalty attempt with his legs. Mikhail sealed Greystanes Preliminary Final berth with a pin-point accuracy fifth penalty.

A disappointing end for Schofields but for Stan Ackerley and his men, their first season in Division Two is one they can look back on with great pride.

Next week fixture: Liverpool Bossy v Greystanes at Gabbie Stadium 4.30pm.

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NSW Youth & Cadet Leagues



This week the NSW Soccer Federation announced some dramatic and long awaited changes to the structure of Youth League football. These changes will be phased in over the next two seasons although there will be some that will affect us immediately.

For example, two clubs will be relegated from Premier Youth League each season (commencing in 2002) and two will be promoted from Super Youth League. Also taking effect immediately, one club will be relegated from Super Youth League and one will be promoted from Division One Youth League. In addition, all clubs will need to meet specific criteria relating to their grounds and facilities.

Under 11s and Under 12s will, over the next two seasons, revert to Association-based Representative football while Youth League will evolve over the same period to include age groups 13, 14, 15, 16 and 18 by season 2004. Also by 2004 the NSL clubs will not be permitted to field Youth League teams.

As with all change in the game, we can expect to read and hear a lot of negative comments over the coming weeks but many of those are bound to be misguided or ill-informed. The vast majority of experts on the subject of Youth League football have agreed that the reforms are right and will be for the long term good of the game.



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PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE

For some weeks we have been telling you that the race for the Club Championship would be a tight one and we have been fascinated to watch the events unfold before our eyes over that period. Now Olympic Sharks have established a ten point lead over Blacktown City thanks to an absolutely perfect round against Northern Spirit last weekend. Whilst Olympic cannot exactly put their hands on the trophy just yet the pressure is really on the Demons who must win all games against Olympic at the Gabbie Stadium on Saturday to deny the

Sharks and claim the award for the fourth consecutive season. It is a tough assignment for the Demons but stranger things have happened.

Spirit were shattered by their nil-points day but have clung on to third place on goal difference from Marconi Stallions who took nine points from their visit to Southern Branch. Parramatta Eagles are only a point further back after taking all twelve points from Sutherland Sharks and so the race is on for third place. Every single result will be all-important for these three clubs this weekend.

Apart from the top five, Wollongong Wolves are sixth after their good day against St George who will be relegated this season along with Manly Warringah Dolphins who managed a meagre one point from Blacktown. Sydney United also had a successful day at Leichhardt Tigers and they are now seventh after leapfrogging the Lambert Park club. Central Coast are ninth following their results against Penrith.

Parramatta's 13s continued their successful season with a win over

Sutherland and now have a sixteen point lead. Second placed Blacktown easily accounted for Manly while Olympic had a good result against Spirit to jump over them into third spot. Marconi will round off the top five after winning at Nowra.

Olympic has claimed the number one spot in the 14s after beating Spirit who are now second with Marconi applying pressure from third spot only one point behind. Blacktown will finish fourth while the final place is still up for grabs with Central Coast, Leichhardt and Parramatta within two points of each other.

Marconi have taken the 15s title with their six point lead on their challengers and congratulations go to them. Olympic are second but there are under pressure from Parramatta and Sydney United who are within two points of them. Injury riddled Blacktown will complete the top five for the finals series.

Blacktown's 17s have a two point lead over the Wolves and need a good result over third-placed Olympic this weekend to claim the trophy. Spirit will finish fourth while Leichhardt or Sutherland could claim fifth place.



SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE

At the risk of being boring we will tell you once again that Newcastle have won the title and that their lead is forty-nine points. Bankstown City Cubs have well and truly secured second place and it looks as though Macarthur Rams will finish third although AC United will be keen to have something to say about that. Fifth place will have to wait until all the results are in on Saturday night as Fairfield Bulls, Hills United, Nepean, Hajduk Wanderers and Mingara Lakers are all within three points and anything could happen. Sadly, Canterbury Marrickville cannot avoid relegation as they are thirteen points behind.

Nepean's 13s coach Peter Daglis is finally smiling as his charges have claimed to top spot after their narrow win over Fairfield assured them of a five point lead. Congratulations to them. Newcastle will finish second with Macarthur third as neither can be overtaken. The remaining places will be determined this weekend with Eastern Suburbs, Bonnyrigg White Eagles and Mingara Lakers all keen to secure a place.

In the 14s Macarthur's Bill Garriock is also smiling from ear to ear after claiming the title despite their loss to Newcastle who moved into second place. Blacktown could only manage a draw against the Lakers at Mingara and they are in third place but facing a challenge from AC United who recorded a good win over Hajduk. Fifth place is yet to be decided and it could go to either Nepean, Hajduk, Bankstown or Eastern Suburbs this weekend.

Bankstown's 15s are not satisfied with merely claiming the title as they posted another good win, this time over Ku-Ring-Gai. Newcastle have

wrapped up second place following their win over Macarthur. Hills United are in third spot on goal difference over Fairfield after both posted victories last weekend. AC United need a point from their match this weekend to fend off Ku-Ring-Gai and assure themselves of fifth place.

Newcastle's top-of-the-table 17s continued their run of success with a convincing win over Macarthur and Hills are assured of second place as they too had a very good result. After that it becomes a bit more interesting. AC United are third on goal difference over Fairfield and both are being threatened by Bankstown who could miss out altogether if they slip up on the weekend as Mingara are waiting to pounce.

DIVISION ONE YOUTH LEAGUE

Camden Tigers need five points this weekend to assure themselves of promotion after leading the way for most of the season. Schofields Scorpions are eight points adrift and they will be hoping for a perfect day on Saturday and they will be praying that the Tigers make a couple of mistakes. Ryde City are sitting in third spot but they are being chased by Illawarra Lions, Mt Druitt Town and Mt Pritchard. Two of these three will make up the top five and one will miss out.

First place in the 13s is wide open as both Schofields and Ryde won on the weekend and the Scorpions have the edge on goal difference. Both will be eager to avoid mistakes this Saturday. Parramatta City are holding down third place but Illawarra are breathing down their necks after knocking them off on the weekend. Camden are now assured of the final spot after a solid victory over Dulwich Hill.

Mt Druitt Town have claimed the title in the 14s with a good win over Ryde and Mt Pritchard will have to settle for second after their draw with MSC Liverpool. Ryde City are still third despite their loss and Camden are now right on their heels after beating Dulwich Hill. Schofields cannot be deprived of fifth place.

Illawarra Lions will be crowned Champions in the 15s as their win over Parramatta maintained their five point lead over Camden Tigers who made coach Trevor Davis happy with a return to the sort of form that saw them lead the way for most of the season. Their win over Dulwich Hill helped them to retain their goal difference lead over Schofields who also posted a healthy victory. Mt Druitt and Rockdale City will probably fill the remaining places but neither can afford to make an error as Hurstville City Crescent Star are waiting in the wings.

Dulwich Hill's 17s have already claimed their title and they went on with the job with a narrow win over second-placed Camden who remain in that spot. Ryde City are third despite their loss to Mt Druitt. Mt Pritchard are fourth after their draw with MSC Liverpool and Parramatta City are in fifth place but both will need to take care this weekend as Schofields will be keen to take full advantage of any mistake.



Action from Division One Youth League Hurstville City CS v Schofield Scorpions at Camdensville Oval.

THIS WEEK'S FIXTURES

PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE RD 26

Sat 24 August	U13	U14	U15	U17		
Cromer Park	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Manly Warringah	v Leichhardt Tigers
South Nowra	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Sydney United	v Southern Branch YL
Marconi 2	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Marconi Stallions	v Wollongong Wolves
St George Stadium	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	St George	v Sutherland Shire
Melita Stadium	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Parramatta Eagles	v Central Coast
Kingswood Park	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Penrith Panthers	v Northern Spirit
Gabbie Stadium	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Blacktown City	v Olympic Sharks

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE RD 26

Sat 24 Aug	U13	U14	U15	U17		
Oakville Reserve	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Hills United	v Mingara Lakers
Francis Park	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Blacktown Assoc	v Macarthur Rams
Macquarie Field	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Newcastle United	v AC United
Hajduk Stadium	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Hajduk Wanderers	v Bonnyrigg WE
Marrickville Oval	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Canterbury M'ville	v Ku-Ring-Gai Assoc
Jensen Park	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Bankstown City Cubs	v Fairfield Bulls
Hensley Athletic Field	10:00 AM	11:30 AM	1:00 PM	2:45 PM	Nepean Assoc	v Eastern Suburbs

DIVISION 1 YOUTH LEAGUE RD 26

Sat 25 Aug	U13	U14		
Graham Reserve	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	Manly Warringah	v Leichhardt Tigers
Marconi 2	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	Marconi Stallions	v Wollongong Wolves
St George Stadium	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	St George	v Sutherland Shire

Sun 25 Aug	U13	U14		
Melita Stadium	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	Parramatta Eagles	v Central Coast
Kingswood Park	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	Penrith Panthers	v Northern Spirit
Gabbie Stadium	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	Blacktown City	v Olympic Sharks
South Nowra	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	Sydney United	v Southern Branch

PREMIER CADET LEAGUE RD 26

Sun 25 Aug	U11	U12		
Graham Reserve	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	Manly Warringah Dolphins	v Leichhardt Tigers
Marconi 2	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	Marconi Stallions	v Wollongong Wolves
St George Stadium	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	St George	v Sutherland Shire Sharks
Melita Stadium	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	Parramatta Eagles	v Central Coast Coasties
Kingswood Park	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	Penrith Panthers	v Northern Spirit
Gabbie Stadium	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	Blacktown City Demons	v Olympic Sharks
South Nowra	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	Sydney United	v Southern Branch YL

SUPER CADET LEAGUE GRAND FINAL

Sun 25 Aug	U11			
9.00am	U11	Eastern Suburbs	v	AC United
10.30am	U12	Eastern Suburbs	v	Hills United
				Nineveh Field

DIVISION 1 CADET LEAGUE RD 19

Sun 25 Aug	U11	U12		
Magdala Oval	8:45 AM	9:45 AM	Ryde City	v Camden Tigers
Bensons Lane	8:45 AM	9:45 AM	Hawkesbury City	v Schofield Scorpions
Popondetta Park	8:45 AM	9:45 AM	Mt Druitt Town	v Stanmore Hawks
Macedonia Field	8:45 AM	9:45 AM	Illawarra Lions	v MSC Liverpool
St George Stadium	11:00 AM	12:15 PM	Hurstville City-CS	v Parramatta City
Cook Park Mt Pritchard	8:45 AM	9:45 AM	Mt Pritchard	v Rockdale City Suns



NSW Youth & Cadet Leagues



RESULTS AND TABLES

PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE: ROUND 25: GRADE 13: Southern Branch YL 1 Marconi Stallions 4, Wollongong Wolves 0 St George 2, Olympic Sharks 1 Northern Spirit 1, Sutherland Shire Sharks 1 Parramatta Eagles 2, Central Coast Coasties 1 Penrith Panthers 1, Manly Warringah Dolphins 0 Blacktown City Demons 2, Leichhardt Tigers 1 Sydney United 0.

GRADE 14: Southern Branch YL 2 Marconi Stallions 3, Wollongong Wolves 2 St George 2, Olympic Sharks 3 Northern Spirit 0, Sutherland Shire Sharks 2 Parramatta Eagles 4, Central Coast Coasties 2 Penrith Panthers 0, Manly Warringah Dolphins 0 Blacktown City Demons 6, Leichhardt Tigers 0 Sydney United 0.

GRADE 15: Southern Branch YL 0 Marconi Stallions 2, Wollongong Wolves 3 St George 1, Olympic Sharks 6 Northern Spirit 1, Sutherland Shire Sharks 0 Parramatta Eagles 6, Central Coast Coasties 1 Penrith Panthers 0, Manly Warringah Dolphins 0 Sydney United 6.

GRADE 17: Southern Branch YL 1 Marconi Stallions 0, Wollongong Wolves 6 St George 0, Olympic Sharks 3 Northern Spirit 2, Sutherland Shire Sharks 2 Parramatta Eagles 5, Central Coast Coasties 0 Penrith Panthers 0, Manly Warringah Dolphins 1 Blacktown City Demons 4, Leichhardt Tigers 1 Sydney United 1.

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE: ROUND 25: GRADE 13: Mingara Lakers 0 Blacktown Association 0, Macarthur Rams 1 Newcastle United 0, AC United 2 Hajduk Wanderers 6, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 3 Canterbury Marrickville 1, Ku-Ring-Gai Association 2 Bankstown City Cubs 1, Fairfield Bulls 2 Nepean Association 3, Hills United 0 Eastern Suburbs Association 1.

GRADE 14: Mingara Lakers 2 Blacktown Association 2, Macarthur Rams 0 Newcastle United 2, AC United 2 Hajduk Wanderers 1, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 0 Canterbury Marrickville 3, Ku-Ring-Gai Association 0 Bankstown City Cubs 5, Fairfield Bulls 0 Nepean Association 3, Hills United 3 Eastern Suburbs Association 4.

GRADE 15: Mingara Lakers 0 Blacktown Association 0, Macarthur Rams 1 Newcastle United 4, AC United 1 Hajduk Wanderers 1, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 0 Canterbury Marrickville 0, Ku-Ring-Gai Association 0 Bankstown City Cubs 2, Fairfield Bulls 1 Nepean Association 0, Hills United 4 Eastern Suburbs Association 2.

GRADE 17: Mingara Lakers 1 Blacktown Association 1, Macarthur Rams 0 Newcastle United 2, AC United 5 Hajduk Wanderers 5, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 0 Canterbury Marrickville 1, Ku-Ring-Gai Association 1 Bankstown City Cubs 1, Fairfield Bulls 2 Nepean Association 0, Hills United 8 Eastern Suburbs Association 0.

SUPER CADET LEAGUE FINAL SERIES: PRELIMINARY FINAL: GRADE 11: Macarthur Rams 0 Eastern Suburbs Association 2.

GRADE 12: Canterbury Marrickville 1 Hills United 2.

DIVISION ONE CADET LEAGUE: ROUND 20: GRADE 11: Camden Tigers 2 Hawkesbury City 0, Stanmore Hawks 0 Ryde City 4, MSC Liverpool 1 Mt Druiit Town 0, Parramatta City 2 Illawarra Lions 2, Rockdale City Suns 0 Hurstville City Crescent Star 7, Schofield Scorpions 5 Mt Pritchard 0.

GRADE 12: Camden Tigers 3 Hawkesbury City 0, Stanmore Hawks 0 Ryde City 1, MSC Liverpool 3 Mt Druiit Town 2, Parramatta City 2 Illawarra Lions 3, Rockdale City Suns 3 Hurstville City Crescent Star 1, Schofield Scorpions 0 Mt Pritchard 0.



PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE GRADE 13

P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Parramatta Eagles	25	21	3	1	64	17	66
Blacktown City	25	15	5	5	50	18	52
Olympic Sharks	25	14	7	4	44	19	25
Northern Spirit	25	14	6	5	45	25	20
Marconi Stallions	25	13	8	4	47	23	47
Leichhardt Tigers	25	12	4	9	36	37	-1
Penrith Panthers	25	10	4	11	33	39	-6
St George	25	10	3	12	38	41	-3
Central Coast	25	6	7	12	25	35	-10
Manly Warringah	25	6	5	14	25	43	-18
Sutherland Shire	25	8	3	14	27	53	-26
Southern Branch YL	25	5	3	17	25	65	-40
Wollongong Wolves	25	5	2	18	23	45	-22
Sydney United	25	4	4	17	19	41	-22

GRADE 14

P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Olympic Sharks	25	18	5	2	65	19	46
Northern Spirit	25	17	5	3	66	21	45
Marconi Stallions	25	16	7	2	56	19	37
Blacktown City	25	13	8	4	50	20	30
Central Coast	25	10	5	10	29	35	-6
Leichhardt Tigers	25	9	7	9	16	34	-18
Parramatta Eagles	25	8	9	8	37	37	0
Sutherland Shire	25	8	6	11	29	37	-8
Penrith Panthers	25	6	8	11	22	31	-9
Sydney United	25	6	6	13	33	43	-10
St George	25	5	9	11	25	50	-25
Manly Warringah	25	5	7	13	17	45	-28
Southern Branch YL	25	5	4	16	25	52	-27
Wollongong Wolves	25	3	6	16	26	53	-27

GRADE 15

P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Marconi Stallions	25	20	3	2	55	13	63
Olympic Sharks	25	18	3	4	84	24	60
Parramatta Eagles	25	18	2	5	58	21	56
Sydney United	25	17	4	4	52	16	55
Blacktown City	25	14	5	6	41	18	47
Wollongong Wolves	25	12	4	9	44	26	40
Northern Spirit	25	12	3	10	38	40	-2
Central Coast	25	9	6	10	28	30	-2
Sutherland Shire	25	9	5	11	27	34	-7
Southern Branch YL	25	8	4	13	17	36	-19
Penrith Panthers	25	8	0	17	18	35	-24
Manly Warringah	25	3	5	17	18	31	-34
Leichhardt Tigers	25	2	4	21	11	88	-77
St George	25	0	2	23	9	60	-51

GRADE 17

P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Blacktown City	25	20	2	3	67	20	47
Wollongong Wolves	25	19	3	3	58	15	43
Olympic Sharks	25	16	3	6	54	29	51
Northern Spirit	25	13	6	6	45	26	19
Leichhardt Tigers	25	12	4	9	51	32	19
Sutherland Shire	25	13	5	7	42	41	1
Parramatta Eagles	25	9	5	11	39	35	4
Sydney United	25	9	5	11	37	39	-2
Southern Branch YL	25	8	6	11	37	54	-17
Penrith Panthers	25	8	5	12	34	47	-13
Central Coast	25	6	7	12	31	36	-15
Marconi Stallions	25	7	2	16	33	54	-21
Manly Warringah	25	5	2	18	26	57	-31
St George	25	1	3	21	20	79	-59

PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE COMBINED

P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Olympic Sharks	100	66	18	16	247	156	216
Blacktown City	100	62	20	18	208	132	206
Northern Spirit	100	56	20	24	194	112	188
Marconi Stallions	100	56	20	24	191	109	188
Parramatta Eagles	100	56	19	25	208	110	187
Wollongong Wolves	100	39	15	46	151	139	132
Sydney United	100	36	19	45	141	139	127
Leichhardt Tigers	100	37	15	48	114	191	126
Central Coast	100	31	25	44	103	136	113
Sutherland Shire	100	38	19	43	125	165	116
Penrith Panthers	100	32	17	51	107	170	113
Southern Branch YL	100	26	17	57	104	207	103
Manly Warringah	100	21	15	64	86	196	110
St George	100	16	17	67	92	230	138

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE GRADE 13

P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Nepean Assoc	25	20	2	3	83	17	66
Newcastle United	25	17	6	2	64	12	57
Macarthur Rams	25	16	2	7	64	29	50
Eastern Suburbs	25	13	5	7	59	32	44
Bonnyrigg WE	25	13	5	7	37	39	-4
Mingara Lakers	25	12	7	6	22	25	-3
Fairfield Bulls	25	13	2	10	54	54	0
Bankstown City Cubs	25	9	5	11	24	38	-14
Ku-Ring-Gai Assoc	25	7	7	11	25	34	-9
Hajduk Wanderers	25	8	4	13	45	56	-11
Blacktown Assoc	25	6	4	15	20	47	-27
Canterbury M'ville	25	6	3	16	25	68	-43
Hills United	25	1	8	16	12	40	-28
AC United	25	2	4	19	26	69	-43

GRADE 14

P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Macarthur Rams	25	18	5	2	64	13	51
Newcastle United	25	16	6	3	59	21	54
Blacktown Assoc	25	16	5	4	63	23	40
AC United	25	15	7	3	57	23	42
Nepean Assoc	25	11	4	10	41	36	5
Hajduk Wanderers	25	11	4	10	38	37	1
Bankstown City Cubs	25	10	6	9	43	39	4
Eastern Suburbs	25	9	8	8	36	38	-2
Mingara Lakers	25	7	8	10	24	27	-3
Hills United	25	7	5	13	33	40	-7
Fairfield Bulls	25	6	5	14	28	49	-21
Bonnyrigg WE	25	6	4	15	35	66	-31
Ku-Ring-Gai Assoc	25	4	4	17	20	63	-43
Canterbury M'ville	25	1	5	19	12	78	-66

GRADE 15

P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Bankstown City Cubs	25	22	3	0	69	10	59
Newcastle United	25	17	4	4	70	21	49
Hills United	25	13	6	6	53	29	45
Fairfield Bulls	25	13	6	6	39	34	5
AC United	25	12	6	7	51	37	14
Ku-Ring-Gai Assoc	25	11	6	8	41	28	13
Blacktown Assoc	25	8	8	9	30	33	-3
Hajduk Wanderers	25	5	11	9	30	45	-15
Canterbury M'ville	25	6	7	12	18	36	-18
Eastern Suburbs	25	6	5	14	38	55	-17
Macarthur Rams	25	6	5	14	30	48	-18
Nepean Assoc	25	5	8	12	30	49	-19
Mingara Lakers	25	4	8	13	28	54	-26
Bonnyrigg WE	25	3	5	17	14	62	-48

GRADE 17

P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Newcastle United	25	21	3	1	85	19	66
Hills United	25	18	3	4	54	13	41
AC United	25	14	5	6	60	34	26
Hajduk Wanderers	25	14	5	6	67	42	25
Bankstown City Cubs	25	14	4	7	66	37	29
Mingara Lakers	25	12	8	5	49	32	17
Canterbury M'ville	25	11	5	9	40	39	1
Fairfield Bulls	25	9	4	12	41	46	-5
Ku-Ring-Gai Assoc	25	8	4	13	38	48	-10
Bonnyrigg WE	25	7	4	14	41	48	-7
Macarthur Rams	25	7	4	14	44	70	-26
Nepean Assoc	25	4	4	17	26	66	-40
Blacktown Assoc	25	4	4	17	21	66	-45
Eastern Suburbs	25	2	3	20	18	90	-72



SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE COMBINED

P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Newcastle United	100	71	19	10	278	205	232
Bankstown City Cubs	100	55	18	27	202	124	183
Macarthur Rams	100	47	16	37	202	160	157
AC United	100	43	22	35	194	163	151
Fairfield Bulls	100	41	17	42	162	183	140
Hills United	100	39	22	39	152	122	139
Nepean Assoc	100	40	18	42	180	168	138
Hajduk Wanderers	100	38	24	38	180	180	138
Mingara Lakers	100	35	31	34	123	138	136
Blacktown Assoc	100	34	21	45	134	169	123
Ku-Ring-Gai Assoc	100	30	21	49	124	173	111
Eastern Suburbs	100	30	21	49	151	125	111
Bonnyrigg WE	100	29	18	53	127	158	105
Canterbury M'ville	100	24	20	56	95	221	126

DIVISION ONE YOUTH LEAGUE GRADE 13

P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Schofield Scorpions	25	18	3	4	102	20	57
Ryde City	25	17	6	2	69	25	44
Parramatta City	25	16	5	4	70	22	48
Illawarra Lions	25	15	6	4	55	31	51
Camden Tigers	25	14	7	4	64	27	49
Hurstville City CS	25	12	7	6	48	28	43
Granville Assoc	25	12	5	8	47	26	41
MSC Liverpool	25	11	7	7	52	26	40
Mt Pritchard	25	9	4	12	43	38	31
Mt Druiit Town	25	8	1	16	25	59	-34
Dulwich Hill	25	5	3	17	13	60	-47
Stanmore Hawks	25	5	3	17	40	89	-49
Hawkesbury City	25	1	4	20	21	100	-79
Rockdale City	25	0	3	22	13	1	



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GIRLS GETS A KICK OUT OF STATE 7-A-SIDE SOCCER GALA DAY

The NSW Amateur Soccer Federation and NSW Soccer Federation are delighted with the success of the first State 7-a-side Soccer Gala Day held over two days last week at Valentine Park, Glenwood.

The event was part of the Girls Soccer Program, "Why Should the Boys Have All the Fun?" and is a collaborative project between the NSW Amateur Soccer Federation (NSWASF) and the NSW Soccer Federation (NSWSF).

The matches saw over 450 primary schoolgirls in 56 teams compete in three categories: Novice, Semi-

Experienced and Experienced.

The schools represented were Ryde PS, Marsden Road PS, Putney PS, Boronia Park PS, Kemps Creek PS, Bennet Rd Colyton PS, Liverpool PS, Holy Family Menai, St Bernadettes Dundas, Pendle Hill PS, St Michaels Blacktown, Liverpool West PS, Winston Hills PS, Bexley Nth PS, Murray Farm PS, Marton PS, Rockdale PS, Holy Cross Kincumber, Rooty Hill PS, Sacred Heart Mt Druitt, Blackwell PS, St John's Riverstone, Sacred Heart Mt Druitt, St Michaels Baulkham Hills, Kurrajong PS and Cherrybrook PS.

The two-day Gala event was an enormous success" said Sharon

Dewar tournament director and the NSWASF Women's Soccer Coordinator.

"It was so exciting to see girls having fun playing soccer in such a friendly environment, and for some of them, this was the first time some had ever kicked a ball in an organised game."

A special moment for the girls was a special autograph session after presentation on Wednesday by current NSW Sapphires and Matilda players, Taryn Rockall and Cassandra Kell.

In fact Cassandra had only arrived back in Australia at 6 am on the day, after flying in from the United States where she had been playing with the

Hampton Roads Piranhas in the W-League.

All winning teams were presented with medals and the winners of the Goal Shooting competition and school draw received soccer kit bags.

Teachers and parents who also attended agreed it was a great experience for the girls to visit the home of soccer in NSW and enjoy the game in a fun atmosphere. Everyone is already looking forward to next year's event!

For more information about the Girls Schools Soccer Program, contact Program co-ordinator, Sharon Dewar on 0414242951.



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WORLD NEWS & GOSSIP

Soccer legend Maradona to host chat show

Argentine football legend Diego Maradona revealed last week that he is to host his own celebrity chat show - the Maradona Show - to be broadcast live from next month.

The 41-year-old hero of Argentina's 1986 World Cup triumph will interview key figures from the world of politics and showbusiness including Cuban leader Fidel Castro in a series likened to David Letterman's Late Show in the United States.

The 'Maradona Show' will be broadcast on local channel America, where the former Argentina captain will be given free reign to stamp his personality and pursue his interests.

"I'm always being interviewed. Now I want to be the one who asks the questions and ask about everything and anything," said the retired star who has battled back from drug addiction.



Meet the new face of TV - Argentine legend Diego Maradona will be hosting his own chat show called: The Maradona Show.

The former Naples player will appear before the cameras seated

behind a writing desk or sitting on a couch. He will produce the show along with his friend and representative Guillermo Coppola.

The programme will also be presented live animated by a rock band led by Argentine musician Fabian Quintiero, while Maradona will sing the opening and closing credits himself.

The soccer star has never been shy about giving his opinion on all subjects and has sparred verbally with international soccer bosses, while more recently he attacked the US for its 40-year-old trade embargo on Cuba which he likened to the September 11 terror blitz on US targets.

"I prefer the Cuba of Castro ten times more than the America of Bush," said Maradona.

Maradona is also intending to produce and present a programme on golf while a musical programme is also in the pipeline.

Arsenal legend Adams finally calls it quits

Arsenal's veteran defender Tony Adams has ended speculation about his future by confirming his retirement from all football.

Adams had been described by Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger earlier this month as 'no longer a player' with the club, but had not yet formally announced his decision to hang up his boots permanently.

But in an extensive interview with The Observer newspaper last Sunday, the 35-year-old former England international said he was ending his playing career in favour of a return to education.

"I am the person I am today because of football and I am grateful for that. But it has come at a mental, emotional and physical cost. It's time for a rest," Adams told the paper.

The centre-half said he is begin a three-year course in sports sci-

ence in September, but did not rule out a return to football in some capacity.

"I wasn't ready for school as a kid. I only wanted to play football. Now I feel ready for education. After all the years of the physical stuff, I wanted something to stimulate me mentally," Adams said.

"It's 18 hours a week with a couple of lectures, a lot of course work and two exams a year. The first year is compulsory, basically shut up and listen.

"In the second and third you specialise more. I'll probably be tapping on David Beckham's shoulder and asking to study how he bends his free-kicks."

Adams said he may eventually get back into football as a manager but admitted it was unlikely he would work his way up from the bottom. He received offers from five clubs in the lower leagues this summer.



Arsenal legend Tony Adams has called it a day with the Gunners ending a long time relationship with last year's Premiership winners.

"I'm tired of learning the hard way. I learned football and life through hard knocks. I think a bit of preparation might go a long way this time," he said.

NEW ARSENAL CAPTAIN VIEIRA WANTS TO BECOME Highbury LEGEND

Arsenal's new captain Patrick Vieira said he wants to become a Highbury legend just like his predecessor Tony Adams.

Vieira revealed he has already started talks with the club over a new contract, even though there are still two years left on his existing deal at Highbury.

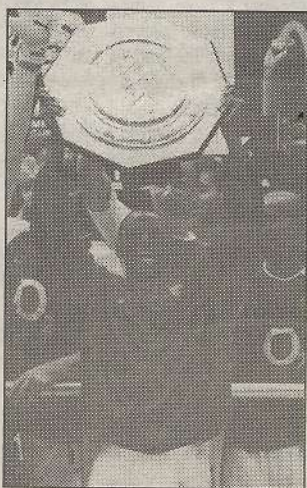
The Frenchman is keen to stress his loyalty to the Gunners, especially after a summer of continual speculation linking him with a move to European champions Real

Madrid.

"My relationship with the boss (Arsene Wenger) and the chairman are fantastic. They knew what I was doing and the situation was very clear between us," he told the Press Association.

"It was disappointing that some fans may have read differently but the only way to show the truth is by my performances on the pitch.

"I want to be part of the history of this club. That's why it's really important to win things here. I want to be remembered



New Gunners skipper Patrick Vieira wants to prove to the critics that he has what it takes to lead Arsenal to glory this season.

at Arsenal and give something for the club."

Former England international Adams won four titles during his 19 years at Highbury, becoming an iconic figure before quitting in the summer.

"Tony is the kind of player who is a great example," France international Vieira added.

"He started and ended his career here and that is a good example to follow."

Former vice-captain Vieira is relishing the prospect of skippering Arsenal this season and accepts he will have to continue improving his disciplinary record.

"It's really exciting to be

captain. I really love it. It's not going to change my performances on the pitch but I will

have to take even more responsibility," he said.

Keane: "I almost quit United"

Controversial midfielder Roy Keane revealed last week that he almost quit playing for Manchester United after the 4-3 English Premiership defeat at Newcastle last season.

Keane was sent off after a tussle with former England striker Alan Shearer in the St James' Park clash in September and later that night he said he decided to take action.

The former Republic of Ireland captain, now in the international wilderness following his bust-up with national team boss Mick McCarthy at the World Cup, said: "I went to bed but never slept a wink.

"Some time during the night I decided 'give it up Roy'. You've turned 30 - get out, get away, do something else.

"You've got to stop hurting yourself, hurting those you love."

In his autobiography, which is being serialised in the News of the World, he continued: "I talked to my wife.

"She argued I would miss it. I said I wouldn't. Anything would be better than this madness, getting angry and frustrated, lashing out.

"I felt I'd lost the argument that some players were in the comfort zone. Too many people were content with what they had. It wasn't for me. I should go.

"Next morning I was waiting for (manager) Alex Ferguson at the training ground at 8am. I told him I wanted to pack it in. He said it was a knee-jerk reaction."

Keane revealed the duo talked

for a long time and he told Ferguson he would not play in the next game - the Champions League clash with Lille - but a walk with his dog changed his mind.

"On the Sunday I walked Triggs a long way, running the options through my head. Another club, somewhere sunny. At least I could be miserable in a warm climate," he said.

"I love my football, really loved



Manchester United's skipper Roy Keane almost quit United last season.

it - but could I play for another club? My heart was in Manchester United.

"And if I couldn't play with my heart I couldn't play. My mind was settled. I felt calm - a big weight off my shoulders."

"I've got another four years in me - I'm sure of that now."

"Italy still topping the world at club level": Fabio Capello

AS Roma manager Fabio Capello confirmed "Italian clubs are still at the pinnacle of the world's game," speaking at a special press conference held last week.

However, the manager, who was joined at the conference by Argentinian striker Gabriel Batistuta and Italy international midfielder Damiano Tomasi, hinted "things are becoming completely different at national teams level.

"Tiny sides over the past have become incredibly strong today, and countries like the USA, Mexico and Croatia have made massive progress, a sign of an ever-shrinking football world we are witnessing these days."

Asked to comment about the poor showing of Italy in the recent World Cup finals, Capello has this to say: "We are struggling to regain our traditional form in the big competitions, this has been clear in the near past.

"Still, I hope we can get over



AS Roma coach Fabio Capello still believes that Italian clubs are still number one at club level.

this impasse, we are on the right path and we only need time and perseverance to get back to where we belong at international level. Italian clubs are always performing neatly, and should everything go as planned, we are heading towards a positive future in the long run."

Scolari quits as Brazil coach

Luis Felipe Scolari, the man who coached Brazil to a fifth World Cup triumph in the summer, announced that he was quitting his job.

Scolari had told reporters two weeks ago that he wasn't sure whether or not he wanted to stay on as national coach and was scheduled to meet with Brazilian soccer bosses to decide his future.

Despite the team's 2-0 win over Germany in the World Cup final in Yokohama in June, Scolari had endured periods of stiff criticism aimed at his coaching methods.

Most of the flak came during the team's tortuous South American qualifying campaign

where they finished behind Argentina and Ecuador.



Bye Bye Brazil, coach Luis Felipe Scolari has quit as the National Team coach of the 2002 World Cup winners.

WORLD NEWS & GOSSIP

Overburdened Owen wants less fixtures CANNAVARO - INTER SIGNED AND SEALED!

Liverpool's England striker Michael Owen says top players are playing too many games and wants the fixture list trimmed as he heads into another long season five short weeks after the World Cup ended.

"It needs looking at, though I don't pretend to have an easy solution," Owen said in an interview with The Daily Mail.

Owen believes England would have done better at the World Cup than a quarter-final exit to eventual winners Brazil had they gone into the event fresher.

"Several of us, me included, would have done a lot better if we had gone into the tournament feeling fresher," he said.

"I had a little problem against Denmark and was still carrying the injury slightly against Brazil."

"The amount of games and train-

ing we got through in a short term meant there were injuries going into the tournament.

"It is the length of the season and the intensity of it. And, when you carry on after that, with the build-up to the World Cup, it does take it out of you."

"Many players would have performed better but for being injured going into the tournament or feeling the effects of a long, arduous season," said Owen.

But he added he could not see a winter break, such as already exists in several other European leagues such as France and Germany, being introduced.

"People talk about a winter break, but I can't imagine clubs agreeing to players having a week or so off doing absolutely nothing."

"Ideally, I would like to avoid decreasing the number of games and instead look at ways of restructuring the fixture list to ease the burden."



Liverpool and England star Michael Owen believes top players are playing too many matches with no rest.

After the sudden and quick negotiations with Parma, FC Internazionale officially presented their new signing Fabio Cannavaro, who after rumours that saw him at first linked with AC Milan and then with Juventus, will wear the black and blue jersey.

Inter's official website posted his first declarations: "I'm happy to be at this great club, because it has great objectives. And this is what I was looking for" he confirmed, also adding "Myself and Inter are certainly looking to realise a dream, that's to say winning the title. The club wants to and so do our supporters. We have to give everything possible to reach this aim". Then he also spoke about the other new arrivals at Inter: "Inter has world class players in every role."

This summer important players like Morfeo, Almeyda, Adani and Coco have been brought in. The

team has undoubtedly been strengthened, but it will be necessary to show it on the pitch. Now



Fabio Cannavaro shown busily training with new club Inter.

it's up to us".

Obligated to choose an aim between the scudetto and the Champions League Cannavaro has not got any doubts: "One thing at a time, let's start with the scudetto. The Champions League is a particular competition, it's very fascinating. But I see the scudetto as the first priority". Then Cannavaro considered Juventus to be one of the most dangerous opponents for the title run in, but he didn't fail to underline the strength of AC Milan: "...that have pulled off a great transfer with Rivaldo". Someone asked him if his arrival at Inter, who were originally looking to Nesta could be considered a makeshift solution, but Cannavaro didn't agree with this conclusion: "No, because it was just a question of time. Eight years ago I was about to sign for Inter and I was on my way to Milan, then I stopped at Parma. With Nesta I think it went differently".

Many players face uncertain future: PFA

Many professional footballers in England's lower leagues face an uncertain future amid the financial fallout from the collapse of ITV Digital and the loss of millions of pounds in anticipated revenue, according to the Professional Footballers' Association.

In all, 562 players were released by their clubs at the end of last season and, although the PFA contests recent figures which suggest only 31 have found a new club the organisation admits unemployment

levels are likely to grow.

The television scandal left clubs pondering how to fill a black hole of 178.5million pounds (273 million dollars) after they failed to persuade the courts to take the money from Carlton and Granada, the 'parents' of ITV Digital.

The PFA's deputy chief executive Mick Maguire says the situation could have been even worse.

"Initial suggestions are that we did not quite see the knee-jerk reactions from clubs which many people expected over the summer," said

Maguire.

"A lot of clubs lived and hoped and remained optimistic that they might be able to retrieve the money they had lost."

"Now many clubs - particularly the Division One clubs, who have been hit the hardest - are looking at their arrangements again, and I think we may see the effect within the coming two or three months."

Division One clubs had hopes to prise around two million pounds from the failed television deal.

The PFA accepts that clubs

released some 560 players - but says this is a rise of less than 10 percent on the 2000-2001 season.

"The figures fail to take into account a large number of factors, such as those players who were available at the end of last season and moved to clubs at levels below Division Three."

"Also, the number will include lots of first and second year pros and under-21s who would probably not have made it with league clubs anyway, and will also be turning to the semi-pros," said Maguire.

China names Hiddink as top candidate for national team coach

The Chinese Football Association (CFA) has named Dutchman Guus Hiddink as their top choice to replace Bora Milutinovic as manager of the Chinese national team, state media reported last Tuesday quoting a CFA source.

A coach-selecting group made up of four CFA officials has worked out a list of three candidates for the post left open after former coach Milutinovic stepped down in July, the official Xinhua news agency cited the source saying. Former France coach Aime Jacquet and Japan manager Philippe Troussier are also on the list.

Hiddink, who led South Korea to the last World Cup semi-finals, is CFA's first choice because he has a "profound" understanding of Asian soccer, Xinhua quoted the source saying.

Moreover, the 55-year-old Dutchman has impressed the CFA with the strict and cruel training regime he imposed on the South Korean team.

Milutinovic, who stepped down in June after China exited in the first round at their debut World Cup in South Korea, had been advocating the "happy soccer" philosophy since he took over the Chinese team in

January, 2000.

But his "loose" training approach was always a dis-putable matter in the nation's soccer circle and drew heavy criticism following China's World Cup debut which ended up with three straight defeats and no goals scored, Xinhua said.

The CFA coach-selecting group believe that Hiddink's strictness would help improve the training atmosphere in the Chinese national side, said the source.

Hiddink recently said he would not consider coaching the Chinese team before 2004 when his contract with Dutch club PSV Eindhoven ends.



Guus Hiddink has been targeted by China as their main man to lead their National Team to the next World Cup.

Asian Champions League winners to receive £330,000

The winners of the first Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Champions League will receive £330,000, five times more than the first place prize for any previous Asian club competitions.

The figure was released last week at the launch of the new competition, which is modelled on the European Champions League.

"After the success of the World Cup in Korea and Japan everybody wants to invest in Asian football, everybody wants to be a

part of Asian football," said AFC general secretary Peter Velappan. "It is a gold mine."

The league has been created by the Asian Football Confederation to give clubs in the continent more incentive to play in Asia-wide tournaments with prize money and subsidies for staging games topping £2,000,000.

It replaces the Asian Club Championship, Asian Cup Winners' Cup and the Asian Super Cup.

The runners-up will receive £200,000 and the 51 competing

teams from 29 countries throughout the world's most populous continent will be given subsidies ranging from £6,500, for first round participants, to £65,000 for sides making it to the last four.

The first match in the new competition will be a preliminary round showdown between Al Wihdat of Jordan and Lebanon's Al Nejme, with the first leg in Amman, Jordan later on Tuesday.

The preliminary stages will finish on November 27 with the big guns of Asian football entering the competition at the 16-team

group stage to be played in four venues from March 9-15 next year.

"This is a wonderful initiative from the AFC and a great step forward for Asian football," said FIFA president Sepp Blatter.

"The AFC Champions League will greatly enhance club football in Asia. As we saw at the World Cup, Asian football at an international level is on the rise. This competition will help raise the standard of club and international football even further."

Referee who struck player in genitals resigns

Here's one of ABSW's lighter stories of the week. A referee who struck a player in the genitals during a Chilean First Division match has resigned rather than face a life ban, the Chilean Football Federation (ANFP) announced last week.

Francisco Caamano, a physical education teacher with 33 years experience, admitted he was at fault during the attack on Audax Italiano player

Nestor Contreras.

"We listened to the defence and the referees union. He (Caamano) recognised the seriousness of his actions which is to his credit," said ANFP chief Sergio Toloza.

The incident took place during last Sunday's league tie between Audax and Deportes Temuco at Temuco, 600km south of Santiago, when the referee sent Contreras off to the anger of the crowd.

When the player and team

captain Alejandro Carrasco demanded to know why Caamano kneed Contreras in the genitals and he fell to the ground.

Caamano said the blow had been intended for the player's thigh and was a reflex action because the player had stepped on his feet.

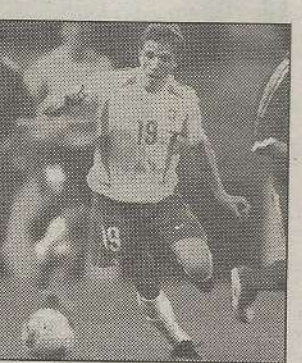
But the explanation was rejected by the referees' union after viewing television footage.

Boro hit by Juninho injury blow

English Premiership side Middlesbrough said last week that Brazilian World Cup winner Juninho could miss a large part of the season after suffering a cruciate ligament injury at the weekend.

The Riversiders are awaiting a specialist's report on the extent of the knee problem, sustained during the club's friendly with Modena in Italy.

The 29-year-old new signing has been ruled out for the first few months of the season and is



Juninho will miss a large part of the English Premier League season due to a knee injury suffered in a friendly match in Italy.

unlikely to return to action before Christmas.

Frustrated manager Steve McClaren said: "It's a setback, but we must show our resolve. We will need club, players and fans to pull together."

"We've got a strong squad that is good enough to do well this season, and Juninho's misfortune could be an opportunity for someone else."

"With Szilard Nemeth, Alen Boksic, Joseph Desire Job and Noel Whelan, I believe we've got cover in abundance."



ENGLAND



38

WORLD

GERMAN BUNDESLIGA

Attacking football – or is it suicidal defending? – was very much the order of the day in Germany as the country's preoccupied minds were temporarily distracted from nature's fury by a flood of goals.

Considering the amount of scoring that went on in some of the other games, Schalke 04's 3-1 away win against Kaiserslautern must almost be considered as a modest result. The overwhelming majority of the 38,000 in the Fritz-Walter-Stadion thought they were in for a joyful afternoon when Thomas Riedl opened the scoring and the visitors were further disadvantaged by Sven Vermant's 36th minute sending-off, but three second-half goals by Schalke ruined their fun in the sun. Jörg Böhme hammered home a penalty to even up the scoreline just three minutes before the interval before Victor Agali put the Royal Blues on their way to their first three-pointer at the Betzenberg since 1976 by finishing off some good work from Andreas Möller down the right. Ebbe Sand capped off a textbook counter-attacking display by his side by capitalizing on a Böhme assist to make it maximum points from the first two games for the traditional Ruhr Valley club and their rookie coach Frank Neubarth.

Arminia Bielefeld were brought back down to earth by a veritable goalscoring clinic by Giovane Elber in an impressive 6-2 victory for Bayern Munich. Ottmar Hitzfeld's side were a transformed team from the one that could barely get a sniff on goal during last week's scoreless stalemate in Gladbach, as their Brazilian goalmachine led the way with four goals. Prompted by the sublime midfield probing of former Leverkusen stars Michael Ballack and Ze Roberto, Bayern laid siege on the newly-promoted visitor's net and were one goal the better on 18 minutes when Elber rose highest to head home an Owen Hargreaves freekick delivery. Ballack then netted on his Olympiastadion debut before Elber got his second of the afternoon courtesy of a fat rebound from Arminia's beleaguered keeper Mathias Hain. Artur Wichniarek gave the completely outclassed visitors a glimmer of hope by pulling his side one back five minutes after the interval but Elber was simply irrepressible and restored Bayern's advantage by completing his hat-trick on

65 minutes. Claudio Pizarro weighed in with a goal of his own in the 81st minute before his hot-footed strike-partner banged home his fourth of the afternoon. Mamadou Diabang managed to sneak in for his side's second with two minutes left on the clock but in light of the scoreline his goal was only greeted with ironic cheers.

League-leading VfL Bochum went one better on the record German-champs by rolling to a 5-0 victory over hapless Energie Cottbus. Thomas Christiansen emphatically added to his two goals from the opening week by bagging three against Cottbus, propelling himself to the top of the Bundesliga scoring race while more importantly powering his newly-promoted side to the top of the table. Paul Freier also got involved in the goalfest by punishing a Vilmos Sebök mistake before Vahid Hashemian found net at a point when Bochum were already three goals and a man up due to Bruno Akrapovic's sending-off.

Elsewhere in round two, 1860 Munich bounced back from their opening day loss to Hansa Rostock by registering a morale-restoring 3-1 victory away to Hannover 96. The Bundesliga newcomers played some decent football but were undone by their own wastefulness in front of goal combined cruelly with the Lions ruthlessness on the afternoon. Daniel Borimirov opened the scoring with a simple header on five minutes before Jiri Stajner finally managed to capitalize on some incessant pressure by the hosts by netting the equalizer close to the half-hour mark. Martin Max pounced on a loose ball on the box to restore his side's advantage with five minutes to go until half-time after which 1860's heavily reinforced defense rode out a storm to enable Benjamin Lauth to complete the 3-1 scoreline on 89 minutes.

Hansa Rostock's encouraging start to the new season continued as they built on their 2-0 win away to 1860 Munich with a duplicate result at home to 1. FC Nürnberg. Rene Rydlewicz was the hero of the day for the Eastern side with his tallies on the 37th and 83rd minute respectively.

In-form Sean Dundee's second goal of the season was not enough for victory for VfB Stuttgart as Hertha Berlin's Friedrich managed to find the net five minutes before the final-whistle to complete the 1-1 scoreline. It was for the



Bremen-Ingo Hertzsch and Tim Borowski during the Bundesliga match between Werder Bremen and Hamburg SV

most part a dull game in Berlin's Olympiastadion, which was marked by Luizao's rather uneventful debut as a substitute.

In the heavyweight clash of the day, Borussia Dortmund held Bayer Leverkusen to a 1-1 draw at the BayerArena. Diego Placente gave Klaus Toppmoller's men the lead after 23 minutes but Jan Koller equalised for Dortmund on the hour.

SV Werder Bremen bounced back from their disappointing performance in the 1. Bundesliga last weekend to beat Hamburger SV 2-1 on Sunday.

Bremen lost 3-0 to newly-promoted Arminia Bielefeld a week ago but showed the spirit lacking in that game against a resilient Hamburg side, grabbing a second-half winner through midfielder Holger Wehlage.

Angelos Charisteas struck the first goal for Bremen with a well-placed shot into the far corner but Tomás Ujfalusi

equalised for the visitors when he found space in the centre to head in a corner from Martin Groth.

Bremen were back ahead six minutes after the break following a massive error from Hamburg goalkeeper Martin Piekenhagen, who let Wehlage's mis-hit shot trickle through his legs.

In the only other game of the day, VfL Wolfsburg, who signed former German international Stefan Effenberg from FC Bayern München on Friday, collected their first win of the season against VfL Borussia Mönchengladbach, Martin Petrov scoring the decisive goal.

Hertha 1 Stuttgart 1, B.München 6 Bielefeld 6 2, Hannover 1 860 München, Hansa Rostock 2 Nürnberg 0, Bochum 5 Cottbus 50, Leverkusen 1 Dortmund 1, Wolfsburg 1 M.Gladbach 0, Werder Bremen 2 Hamburger V 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
VfL Bochum	2	2	0	0	8	1	6
Hansa Rostock	2	2	0	0	4	0	6
Schalke 04	2	2	0	0	4	1	6
Bayern Munich	2	1	1	0	6	2	4
1860 Munich	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
SV Hamburg	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
VfL Wolfsburg	2	1	0	1	1	1	3
Arminia Bielefeld	2	1	0	1	5	6	3
Werder Bremen	2	1	0	1	2	4	3
Hertha BSC	2	0	2	0	3	3	2
Borussia Dortmund	2	0	2	0	3	3	2
VfB Stuttgart	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
Bayer Leverkusen	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
B. Monchengladbach	2	0	1	1	0	1	1
FC Kaiserslautern	2	0	1	1	2	4	1
Energie Cottbus	2	0	1	1	1	6	1
Hanover 96	2	0	0	2	2	5	0
FC Nuremberg	2	0	0	2	1	5	0

Dutch League

Guus Hiddink's return from the Korean Republic to coach PSV Eindhoven was rewarded by a good start to the Eredivisie season as they claimed a 2-0 victory against newly promoted SC Excelsior.

The young Excelsior side, whose average age is 21, were 2-0 behind inside 17 minutes to goals from Mark van Bommel and Arnold Bruggink, and last season's runners-up subsequently cruised to victory in their opening match.

AZ Alkmaar came from behind three times to take a point from a thrilling 3-3 draw with SC Heerenveen. Heerenveen, fourth last season, took the lead through Romano Denneboom in the 12th minute, and before the half-hour were 2-1 up when Barry van Galen's equaliser was quickly cancelled out by Ronnie Venema's goal. Ali El Khatibi levelled the scores early in the second half, and although Denneboom restored Heerenveen's lead not long afterwards, the home side ensured a point through Kenneth Perez with 21 minutes left.

NAC Breda and Roda JC were also involved in a high-scoring draw. Home side NAC seemed to be heading for victory when new signing Arne Slot put them ahead in the 24th minute and Hungarian Csaba Fehér doubled the lead soon after half-time. But Marc Nygaard swiftly pulled one back for Roda, and Kevin van Dessel levelled the scores five minutes from the end.

Willem II won 2-0 at FC Twente with goals from Tarik Sektioui and Dmitri Shoukov, while on Friday night, two promoted sides, RBC Roosendaal and FC Zwolle, kicked off the season with a 1-1 draw, Peter Maseland scoring for Roosendaal after eight minutes and Domingus Lim-Duan equalising midway through the second half.

Eredivisie champions Ajax continued their impressive pre-season form on the first weekend of the season with a 3-1 victory over FC Utrecht. Czech Republic striker Tomáš Galásek paved the way for another victory when he scored his team's first goal of the new campaign on five minutes.

Utrecht soon clawed their way back into contention

with a goal from Belgian Tom van Mol just after the half-hour mark. But second-half strikes from Ahmed Hossam 'Mido' and Steven Pienaar gave Ajax all three points.

Feyenoord's season began on Tuesday night with a 1-0 UEFA Champions League qualifying win over Fenerbahçe SK but they showed no ill effects as they secured a 2-0 victory over NEC Nijmegen.

The Rotterdammer side took a while to get into their stride but eventually wrapped up the win with two goals in four minutes after the break from Bonaventure Kalou and Brett Emerton.

SBV Vitesse came back from a goal down to record a 2-1 win at FC Groningen. Veteran striker Martin Drent put the home side ahead in the 23rd minute, only for Matthew Amoah to level the scores less than a minute later with a low drive from 15 metres.

The Ghanaian international then struck the winner in the 68th minute. In the day's other fixture, Rick Hoogendorp found the back of the net twice, scoring a double in RKC Waalwijk's 4-2 win over De Graafschap.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
RKC Waalwijk	1	1	0	0	4	3	3
Ajax	1	1	0	0	3	3	3
Willem-II	1	1	0	0	2	3	3
PSV	1	1	0	0	2	3	3
Feyenoord	1	1	0	0	2	3	3
Vitesse	1	1	0	0	2	3	3
AZ-Alkmaar	1	0	1	0	3	1	1
Heerenveen	1	0	1	0	3	1	1
NAC-Breda	1	0	1	0	2	1	1
Roda-JC	1	0	1	0	2	1	1
RBC-Rosendaal	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Zwolle	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Groningen	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
De-Graafschap	1	0	0	1	2	0	0
Utrecht	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
Twente	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Excelsior	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
NEC	1	0	0	1	0	0	0

Belgian Eerste Klasse

RSC Anderlecht, Club Brugge KV and Sporting Lokeren St-Niklaas Waasland remained at the head of Belgium's Jupiler League as each team secured their second win in two games.

Anderlecht, third last season, beat newly promoted KV Mechelen 4-1. Ivica Mornar opened the scoring for Anderlecht on 16 minutes, and soon afterwards Gilles de Bilde doubled the advantage. Eric Visscaal pulled one back for the visitors on 28 minutes, but Korean Seol Ki-hyeun restored the two-goal lead before half-time and completed the scoring shortly before the hour.

Brugge, second in 2001/02, overcame KSK Beveren 3-0. Andrés Mendoza and Gaetan Englebert put them two up before the break, and Birger Maertens's 70th-minute penalty rounded off the victory.

Lokeren, who last week surprised reigning champions KRC Genk, gained a 3-1 win against KFC Germinal Beerschot Antwerpen. Rúnar Kristinsson secured the first on eight minutes and Lokeren were two ahead just before half-time through Arnar Gretarsson's penalty. In the 83rd minute, Sambegou Bangoura made it three, making Paul Kpaka's late goal for Germinal scant consolation.

Genk themselves bounced back to win 4-2 at R. Antwerp FC. The visitors were two goals up at half-time through Beli Moumouni Dagano and Bernd Thijs. Omar Mussa pulled one back on the hour, but Koen Daerden and Thijs again scored to secure Genk victory. Patrick Goots struck a penalty consolation five minutes from the end.

R. AEC Mons also secured their first win this season by beating KVC Westerlo 2-1. K. Lierse SK and RAA Louviéroise drew 1-1, and K. Sint Truidense VV's game against KFC Lommel SK finished goal-less.

Standard de Liège were held to a 3-3 draw by Charleroi SC in a thrilling encounter at the Communal stadium on Sunday.

Former Belgium national coach Robert Waseige continues to struggle in charge of Standard, who lost 3-0 at the hands of R. Excelsior Mouscron last week, and could only look on as his side twice threw away the lead.

Ali Lukunku put Standard ahead with the first

attack of the game in the fourth minute, heading in Michaël Goossens' cross from the right.

Charleroi levelled when Adelino Eduardo headed in Alexandre Kolotilko's centre eleven minutes later and Kolotilko then got on the scoresheet himself to put the home side in front, arriving first after Standard keeper Filip Susnjara had blocked Mohammed Mahdavi's header. Ivica Dragutinovic pulled Standard level two minutes into the second half and Lukunku got his second of the game two minutes later to give Waseige's troops the lead once more.

However, it was Dariush Yazdani who had the last word for Charleroi, blasting in the game's sixth goal in the 65th minute. Standard are now just one place off the foot of the table, with only one point to their credit.

In the night's other match, Excelsior followed up last week's win with a convincing 2-1 victory over beating of KAA Gent to move second behind RSC Anderlecht. Marcin Zewlakow and Tonci Martić put the home side two goals to the good and, although Gent pulled a goal back through Ahmed Hosny, the visitors went away empty-handed.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Anderlecht	2	2	0	0	6	6	6
Exc.Mouscron	2	2	0	0	5	6	6
Club Brugge	2	2	0	0	5	6	6
Lokeren	2	2	0	0	6	6	6
Lierse	2	1	1	0	3	4	4
Genk	2	1	0	1	6	3	3
Beveren	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
GBA	2	1	0	1	4	3	3
Mons	2	1	0	1	2	3	3
KV Mechelen	2	1	0	1	2	3	3
S.Charleroi	2	0	1	1	3	1	1
Sint-Truiden	2	0	1	1	2	1	1
LaLouviere	2	0	1	1	2	1	1
AA Gent	2	0	1	1	1	1	1
Lommel	2	0	1	1	1	1	1
Antwerp	2	0	1	1	2	1	1
Standard	2	0	1	1	3	1	1
Westerlo	2	0	0	2	1	0	0

WORLD LEAGUES

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Celtic made it three wins out of three with their second comfortable victory in a row this afternoon. After a 4-0 win against Aberdeen last week Celtic went one better today with a 5-0 win at home to Dundee United, who have just one point to show from their opening three games.

Jackie McNamara got the ball rolling on 25 minutes and just one minute later Chris Sutton doubled the Bhoys' advantage. Stilian Petrov increased the home sides lead with 12 minutes to go before the break. Strikers John Hartson and Henrik Larsson also added goals in the second half and Celtic look unstoppable again this season. The win puts the pressure on Rangers who play against Hearts tomorrow.

It was a bad day for the other Dundee team as they lost 4-2 to Dunfermline who go second in the league. Crawford bagged a hat-trick for the home team, while Nacho Navo was sent off for the visitors after scoring both their goals.

Kilmarnock finished the match with just eight men as they crashed to a 3-0 defeat at home to Motherwell. Referee Alan Freeland sent off Gary Locke, Andy McLaren and Jesus Sanjuan in a crazy second half.

In this afternoon's other game Partick Thistle were pegged back at home to Livingston for their third successive draw this season.



Rangers striker Arteta holds off Doumbe of Hibs.

Celtic 5 Dundee U 0, Dunfermline 4 Dundee FC 2, Partick Thistle 2 Livingston 2, Kilmarnock 0 Motherwell 3, Hibernian 2 Rangers 4, Aberdeen 1 Hearts 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Celtic	3	3	0	0	11	1	9
Rangers	3	2	1	0	8	3	7
Dunfermline	3	2	0	1	7	5	6
Hearts	3	1	2	0	7	3	5
Motherwell	3	1	1	1	6	4	4
Livingston	3	1	1	1	6	6	4
Kilmarnock	3	1	1	1	3	5	4
Aberdeen	3	1	1	1	3	6	4
Partick	3	0	3	0	3	3	3
Dundee	3	0	1	2	3	8	1
Dundee Utd	3	0	1	2	1	7	1
Hibernian	3	0	0	3	4	11	0

FRENCH LIGUE 1



Rennes FC's Cyril Yapi (left) heads the ball over Florent Malouda of Guingamp.

Guingamp caused quite a stir by taking the lead in le Championnat after seeing off troubled Stade Rennais in le Roudourou. Previous leaders Nantes fell quite heavily at Sochaux (4-2), while Paris Saint-Germain wasted two points against Ajaccio (2-2) despite Ronaldinho's return.

In the midst of Anthony Reveillere and Julien Escude's refused transfers, Rennes were no match for battling Guingamp. Florent Malouda scored a double and Chris Le Roux added a third to pile on Rennes's crisis.

All eyes were on PSG's home match with newly promoted Ajaccio not for the game itself but for the announced return of Ronaldinho. In a quiet evening another Southamerican star, Martin Cardetti, opened his account for the Paris team. A last minute Hervé Alicate goal gave Ajaccio quite an unexpected draw four minutes into extra-time.

Auxerre snatched another precious away win only days after their Champions League success against Boavista in Porto. Jean-Alain Boumsong and Djibril Cissé's goals were decisive in Troyes.

Bordeaux also proved they were tailored for success this term after getting all three points from Montpellier. Russian international Alex Smertin scored after 19 minutes to make Chris Dugarry's absence look like a detail. The Girondins held on in the heat and also survived Jemmal's late sending-off.

Going to Sochaux was never going to be easy for Nantes but the leaders were expecting to go down to such a heavy defeat. Pedretti's double, Oruma and Pagis goals were not matched by the Canaries, who reacted through Moldovan and Djemba Djemba.

Highly rated striker Florent Sinama Pogolle scored his debut goal for Le Havre in Strasbourg in a boring match ended in a 1-1 draw. It was more fun for fellow newcomers Nice, who enjoyed a successful night at Lille. This is Lille's second home defeat by a three-goal margin.

On Friday Lyon brought back a point from Marseille in an entertaining 1-1 draw.

Marseille 1 Lyon 1, Bastia 1 Monaco 0, Guingamp 3 Rennes 0, Lille 0 Nice 3, Montpellier 0 Bordeaux 1, PSG 2 Ajaccio 2, Sedan 0 Lens 1, Sochaux 4 Nantes 2, Strasbourg 1 Le Havre 1 Troyes 1 Auxerre 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Guingamp	3	2	1	0	8	3	7
Bordeaux	3	2	1	0	4	0	7
Nice	3	2	0	1	8	2	6
Auxerre	3	2	0	1	4	2	6
Nantes	3	2	0	1	5	4	6
Lyon	3	1	2	0	10	5	5
Sochaux	3	1	2	0	5	3	5
Lens	3	1	2	0	3	2	5
Paris SG	3	1	2	0	3	2	5
Le Havre	3	1	2	0	3	2	5
Bastia	3	1	1	1	2	2	4
Marseille	3	1	1	1	2	3	4
Monaco	3	1	0	2	4	2	3
Montpellier	3	1	0	2	1	3	3
Ajaccio	3	0	2	1	3	5	2
Strasbourg	3	0	2	1	2	6	2
Rennes	3	0	1	2	0	4	1
Troyes	3	0	1	2	1	6	1
Sedan	3	0	1	2	1	7	1
Lille	3	0	1	2	0	6	1

ALAIN'S CORNER

Les Bleues are back....



Alain Barataud

After a very disappointing World Cup 2002 the French Team is back for a friendly international game against another disappointed team of the Japan-Korea campaign - Tunisia. Jacques Santini, the new French national coach who took the position of Roger Lemerre in

July, has one mission - to prepare the team for Euro 2004 in Portugal as the European Champions strive to regain the title of the best team in the world.

To achieve this, Mr Santini has brought in his first selection some players from the Under 20's national team around new captain, Zinedine Zidane. Govou, striker of Lyon; Mexes, sweeper from Auxerre; Reveillere, right back of Rennes; Landreau, Nantes Goalkeeper; Brechet, left back from Lyon and the midfield, newly signed Liverpool player, Bruno Cheyrou. These six players have many things in common.

All are twenty one years old, possess great talent, have the best European Clubs at their feet and are the future of the French team. With Zidane, these young players will try to prove to the new coach they deserve to be here alongside the rest of the same squad that took part in World Cup 2002 with the exception of Steve Marlet. Coupet, Candela, Thuram, Sylvestre, Christanval, Dessailly, Sagnol, Vieira, Petit, Carriere, Makelele, Cisse, Henry and Wiltord all want to forget their disastrous 2002 campaign.

For this game against Tunisia, the coach has noted that Djorkaeff, Dugarry, Leboeuf and Boghossian will never play again for "les bleues" but Trezeguet, Micoud, Rame and Barthez are out with injuries to return only as soon as they are fit.

Wednesday will be the day for Santini and his men to show all those watching what sort of reaction 'les bleues de France' will serve up for us.

Last Wednesday at Champions League Qualification, Auxerre was in Porto to play Boavista. Auxerre performed very well winning by one goal from Djibril Cisse and succeeded with a great advantage before the return game in two weeks.

News from the transfer market sees international Senegalese player, Salif Diao from Sedan, signing for five years with Liverpool; Julien Escude, left back with Rennes, will sign this week for the Red Devils, Manchester United and new Bleue, Reveilleres, is on his way to Lyon.

All over the world, the transfer market has been very quiet but looks like it will move a lot in the last two weeks. The two Aussies Mile Sterjoski and Nick Carle have been asked by their respective clubs, Lille and Troyes, to look for new employers.

This weekend in Round Three of League One, two of the three small budget clubs, Guingamp and Nice, took control of the championship with Bordeaux who secured a great win in Montpellier.

All the country was watching the game of the week, Marseille versus Lyon - a beautiful game with a lot of emotion for Marseille. With a goal scored by Sydney Govou, Lyon was leading 1-0 after fifteen minutes but Marseille was back in the game with Bakaioko equalizing at the thirty minute mark.

The rest of the game was a brilliant show for Marseille supported by the 58,000 fans who been singing all the way to give power to their favourite team.

The game ended as a draw as Marseille was unlucky, touching the bar twice by Leboeuf and Chappuis but without the magnificent Gregory Coupet, Lyon would have lost by three or four goals and so therefore was lucky to take home one point.

If Marseille continues to play like they did in this game, they can get pretty close to the top three this year. This is not the end of the line with still thirty-five games to go and they need to back up their performance next week in Rennes.

The game of the week will be Nantes versus Lens.



Northern Spirit in Pre Season Action



Veteran Alex Tobin shows his credentials as a cyclist.



Photographer: Carlos Furtado



The dynamic duo of Paul Henderson and new signing Vuko Tomasevic battle it out in the Northern Spirit rowing regatta.



Former U17 Joeys star Sean Walsh gets a grip on things.



(Above) Julian Watts powers to victory in the Tour De Exercise bike.



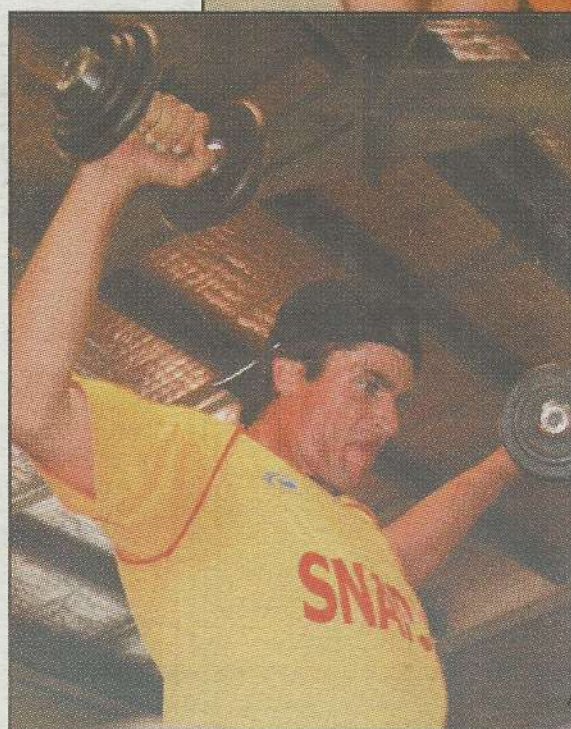
Promising custodian Jacob Rex works the legs at a recent Spirit Gym session.



(Above) Young Northern Spirit defender Matthew Hunter going that extra step in becoming a muscle man.



(Left) Robbie Trajkovski takes the strain on the leg press.



(Left) It's all in the arms - Paul Henderson pumps some iron.